スピリッツ
YOUNG
SUNDAY
COMICS

おやすみプンプン ⑫

浅野いにお

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

小学館

今、一番おもしろい

YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

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浅野いにお

1980年生まれ。茨城県出身。
2001年、第1回サンデーGX新人賞入賞。
主な著作に『素晴らしい世界』
『ひかりのまち』（ともに小社刊）がある。
『ソラニン』（全2巻・小社刊）が、
全国より世代・性別を超えた大反響作に。

イラスト・浅野いにお　デザイン・黒木香＋ベイブリッジ・スタジオ

おやすみプンプン
⑫浅野いにお

スピリッツ
YOUNG
SUNDAY
COMICS

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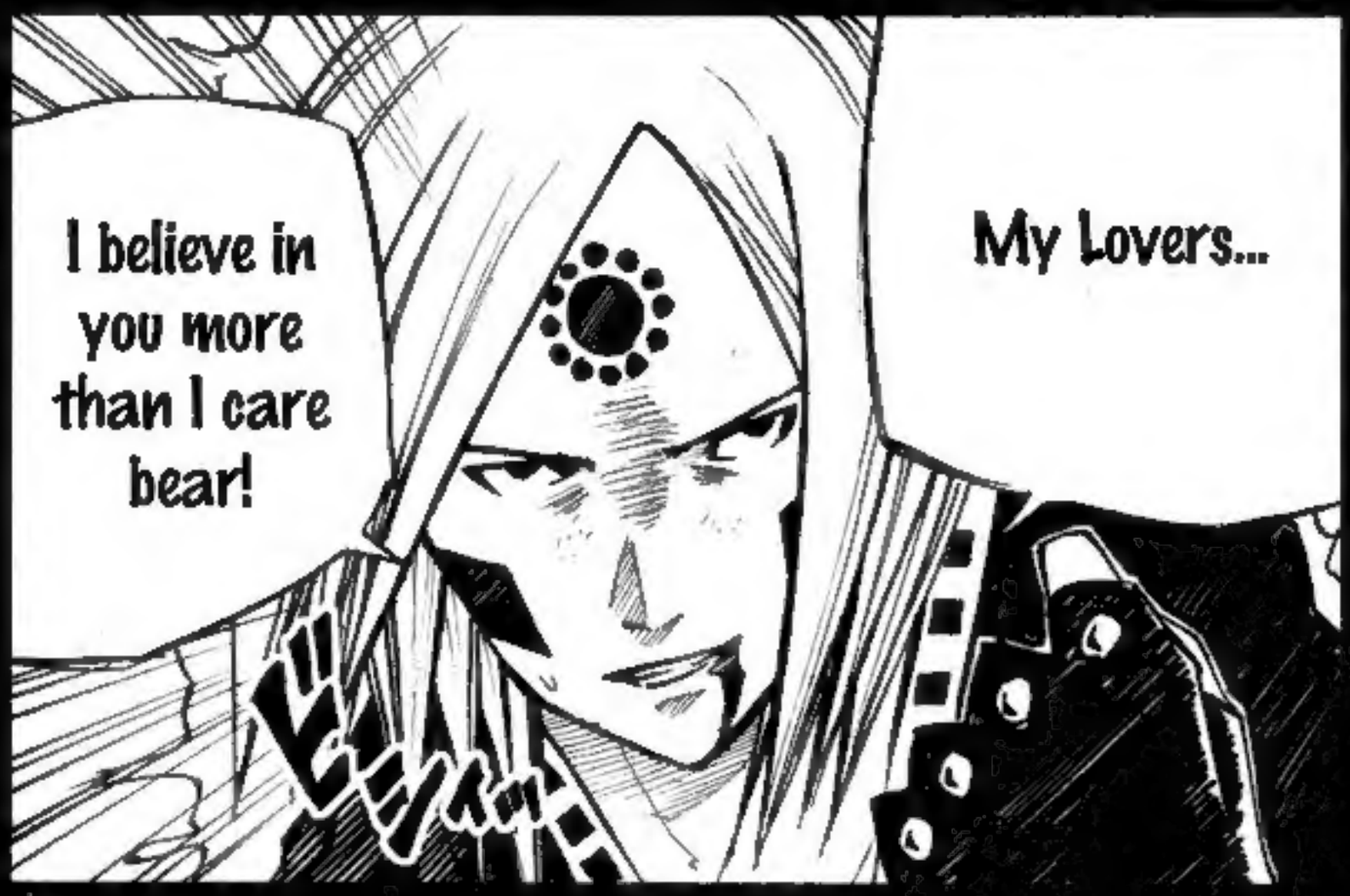
YOUNG SUNDAY COMICS

GOOD NIGHT PUNPUN STORY

The Story Until Now

Pegasus, the prodigy who became the first-ever child to pass the Esper Exam, forsees the destruction of the world in a dream when he was 8. After a chance meeting with physicist Wada with an IQ of 300, the two set out on a journey to verify his prophetic dream. Along their journey, they free brainwashed espers through Harmony dimensional battles, and in doing so, Pegasus comes to learn of a great evil born from the collective unconscious. He also learns he is the descendant of the enlightened one, whose bloodline allows him to command the Majestic Twelve, warriors tasked with fighting against the impending calamity.

Despite their efforts, the great calamity escapes into the 25th dimension and Pegasus falls into the abyss of "Enigma." However, thanks to the Majestic Twelve's support, Pegasus is revived and Wada tells him thus:



"We the Majestic 12 will use the forbidden treasure *Red Kiss*, which will rob us of our lives but will alow us to enter the hyper-astral plane and strike at the *great calamity* lurking in the Zero-field."

And thus the final Harmony dimensional battle begins, upon which the fate of humanity hangs...

CHARACTER

Pegasus

The enlightened commandered of the Majestic Twelve.
Ability: Future Predicion, Mind JACK

Wada (Sweet Pretty Lonely Fluffy Bro)

Genius physicist and former captain of the Royal Guards in the Eastern Kingdom.
Ability: Super-Intellect

Pao Pao Channel

A former wanted-thief.
Has since become a hacker since his seclusion.
Ability: Mongolian Death Arm

Echo-Back

Formerly the investigator who pursued Pao Pao Channel.
Ability: Telekinesis

White Pig

The princess who was confined for 10 years in the Altai Heinlicht.
Ability: Noble Blood Barrier

Freezie

An orphan from the bottomless village. Has the strongest secret ability out of all the Majestic 12.
Ability: Climate Change, Projectile Summoning

Contrary

An express courier that travels throughout the world. The second oldest of the three Jet Brothers.
Ability: Super-speed

Having-one-battery-left-over-is-troublesome

A martial arts expert who revived from a near-death state after the great war of 1000 years ago.
Ability: 88 techniques of the Qigong Praying-Mantis style

Weekly Big Comic Spirits

The captain of the New Nessie Armed Fleet of the Far Lands.
Ability: Solemn Wind (Mokele-mbembe)

Pussy Princess

A refugee from the ongoing turmoil of the Tsuchinoko Empire.
Ability: Unlocking keys

Love Infinite

Though he works as a clown for the Paranormal Troupe, he's the son of the distinguished heir of the Mothman Foundation's founder.
Ability: Shape-shifting, intel-gathering

Ass Hamburger

A female high school student who lost her memories after becoming possessed by a cursed sword. She is on the search for her family.
Ability: Wild-Hammer Slash

Guardian Angel Gibobogigi

A female ronin-swordsman. 90% of her body had to be rebuilt with machines after her defeat at the hands of Black Spot.
Ability: Lv. 3 Cosmic Beam

Black Spot

A mysterious woman who opposes Pegasus and his followers. She was once an ordinary civilian before becoming possessed by the collective unconscious.

Great Calamity

The great demon who was sealed in the climax of the last great war. He currently lurks in the 25th dimension, plotting for humanity's destruction.

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CHAPTER 122

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HAH...

GASP

HUFF...

HUFF...

HUFF...

HAH

GASP

HUFF,

HUFF,

H...

HAAAH...

I love you, Punpun...

B-but I...

So, so, so much...

I love you,

So, so,

Kitchen Demi-glace

Uhh...

SNIFF

SNIFF

I...

I love you...

AAHHH!

"...Aiko. This kind of half-assed determination won't do."

"I'm prepared to accept every last thing about you so you've got to show me the same determination. Enough to drive this fork all the way to the back of my skull."

Okay_

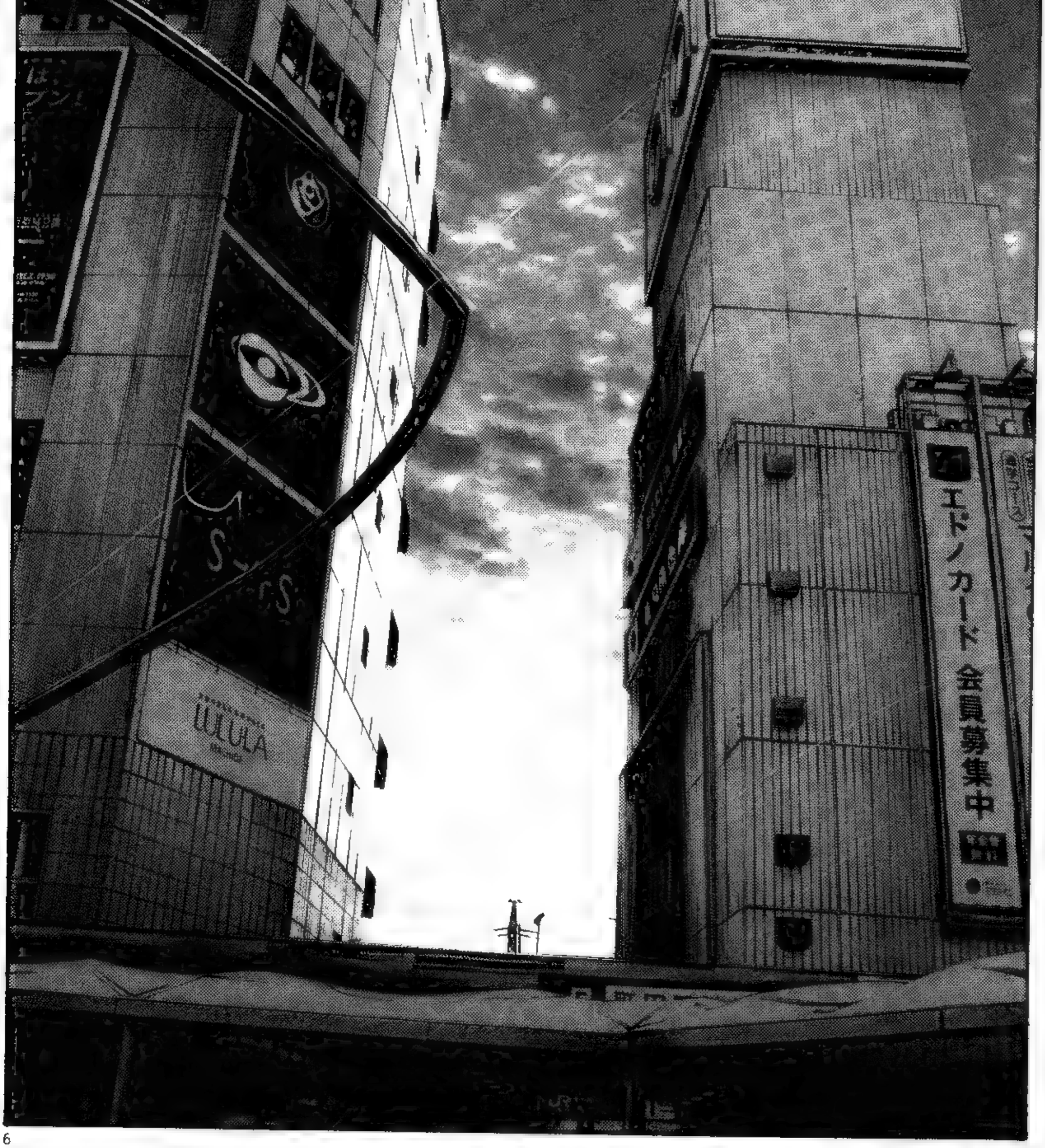
O_

O_

I will_

L_

"...You've got to be more serious, Tanaka Aiko."



6

Mimura has arrived on the scene!

Chupa Chupa Haha!

'Sup, Nanjou!

...Yeah, same here.

I heard about the situation between you two from Kanie but...

I've already had no luck in searching for him in the usual places.

The video-rental shop, landlord's place, convience store, game centers, home appliances & electronic stores... Everywhere, man.

Yeah, I've looked around those places too.

Whose house he could stay at...?

Does he maybe know some other friend.

He ain't got any real friends other than you and me.

Who'd even try to call him?

Not surprising when you consider his personality.

Uhh...

He pretty much hasn't kept in touch with any of our old high school pals...

Let's be real now. This is Ono-D we're talkin' about.

I mean, who doesn't go around carrying a cell phone in this day and age?

Yeah...

...You're right.

Not sure if I passed him by.

But I know for sure he was in his room 3-4 days ago.

You're worryin' too much.

You know he likes playing the whole lone-wolf card.

So how long's it been since you last talked with Ono-D?

Hmm...

I just have a very bad feeling about all this.

Mimura,

Did Punpun say anything odd to you recently?

No, not really...

Though to be honest, I haven't talked with him much as of late since I've been busy with school and applying for jobs...

And besides, Nanjou.

Aren't you the one,

That he's opened up the most to?

It might sound a lil' corny but I really do feel somethin' special between you two.

Like a hard, unbreakable bond.

But why aren't you two going out?

...I know I've asked once before,

Haha. Us, a lovey-dovey couple after all that's happened? Cut it out.

Well, even the hardest of things can shatter when one little crack appears....

...You know, Nanjou, you're surprisingly girly at times.

Shut up.

You speak of your friend almost like a stranger...

Even he must have times when wants to be alone, you know.

Well...

I'm sure he'll be back

I believe him.

Or rather, I don't have a choice *but* to believe in him.

It's *because* he's my friend.

It's not like he'd suddenly show up just because I started frantically looking for him, you know.

But he's he and I'm me. Just because we're friends doesn't change the fact that we go our own separate paths.

I respect his aloof solitude,

That's just the kind of relationship we have.

Even if he were to come back from Thailand with a sex change, I wouldn't bat an eye.

三村

Mimuraaa!

I see...

I don't think I can just stand waiting around though...

But you know,

I think you're just fine the way you are now, Nanjou.

But more because you want to stubbornly protect your pride.

To be honest, your concern for him seems less because of your niceness,

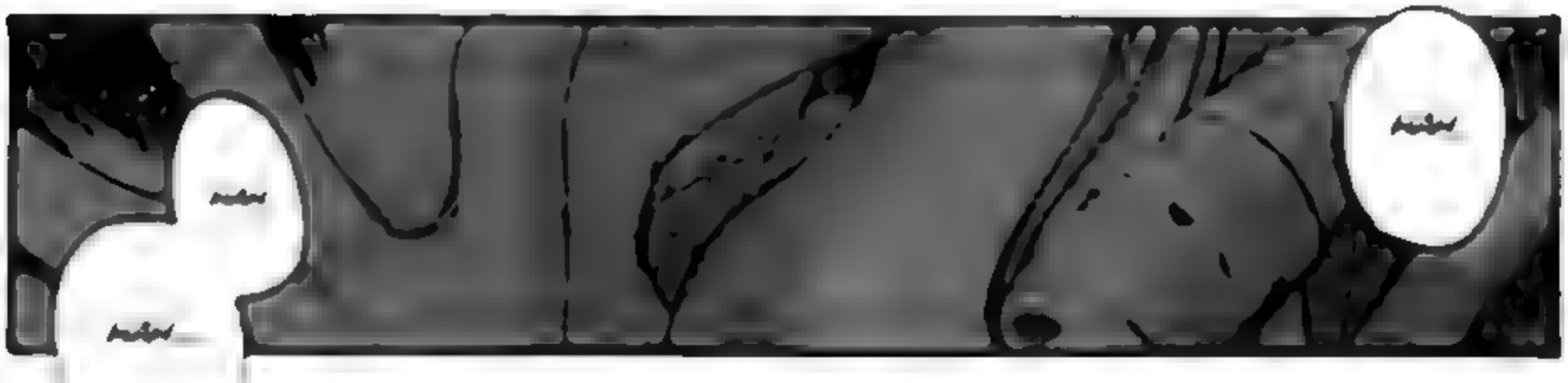
But I do think that when Ono-D comes back,

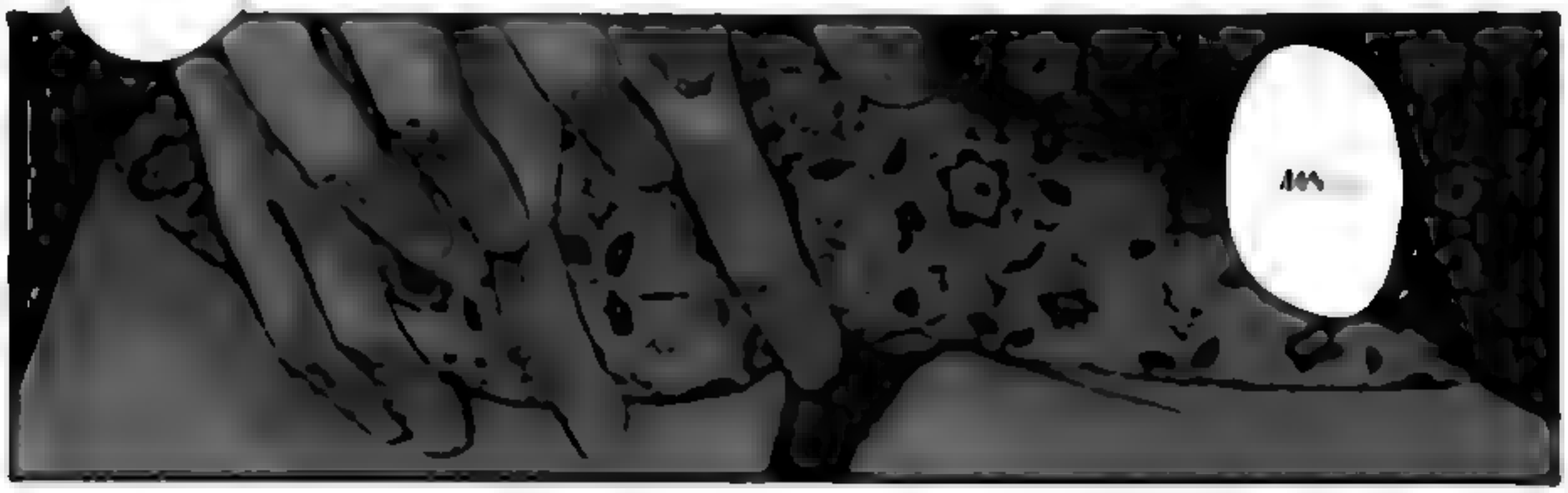
You should be more honest with your own self.

Ono-D's definitely gonna be back.

In any case,

I've got no intention of letting all the fun times I've had with him become just a mere memory of days gone by.





No...

HAH...

HAH...

I'm on my period...

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

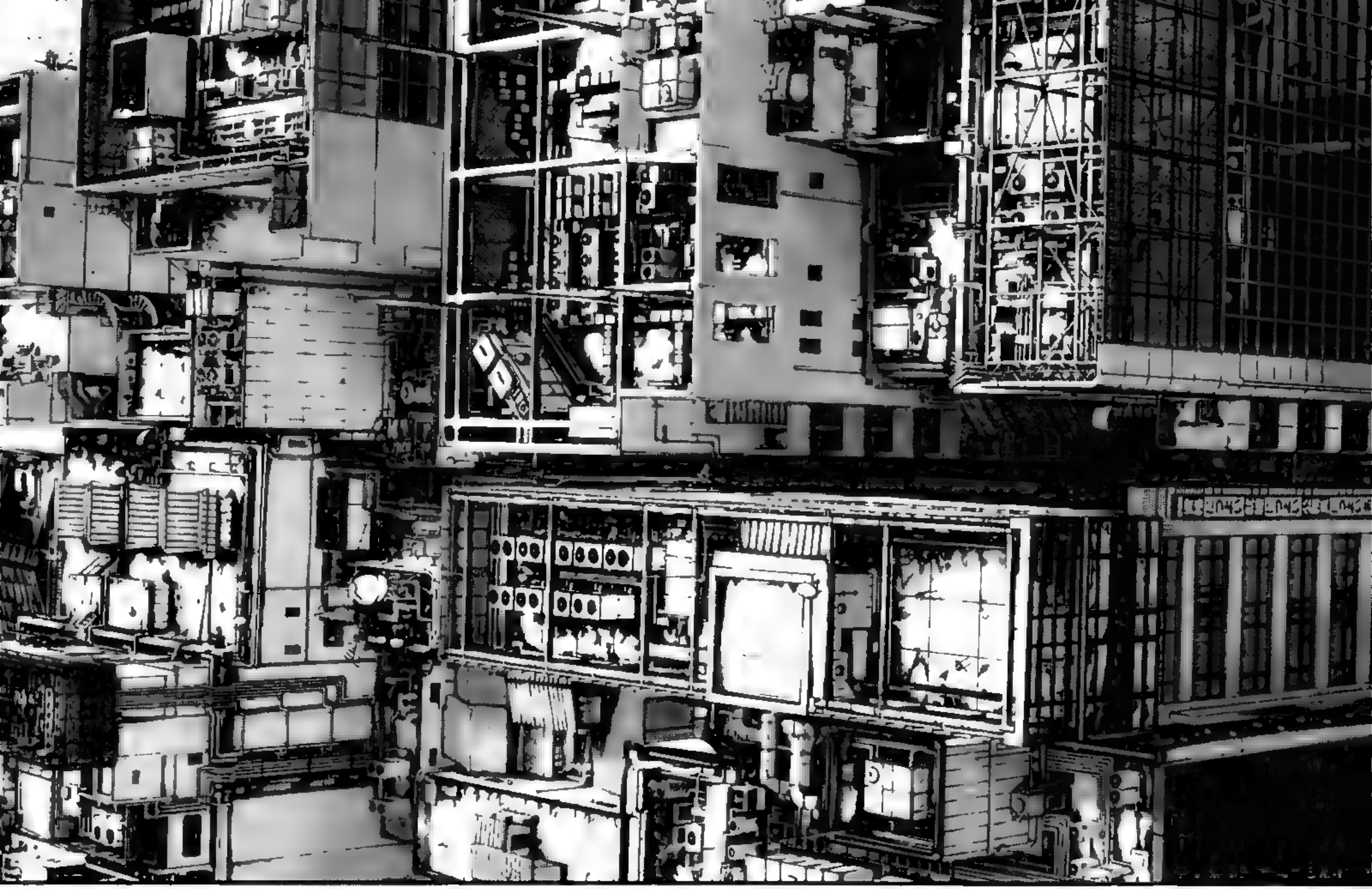
HUFF...

Morning of June 23.

9
富士
Fuji
ETC/一般

CHAPTER 123

June 23, 4p.m.



Kyoto...

I haven't been here since my middle school field trip...

"I... Hardly remember anything from my middle school days..."

Me too...

There's not a single friend or classmate from back then,

That I still remember or keep in touch with...

念

"...Well, is there some reason why we have to hurry then?"

...Is it really fine for us to be just hanging out like this?

...Guess not.

*Sign reads "CAPIC Crafts: Hand-made goods made by prisoners as part of the Correctional Association Prison Industry Cooperation Program

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

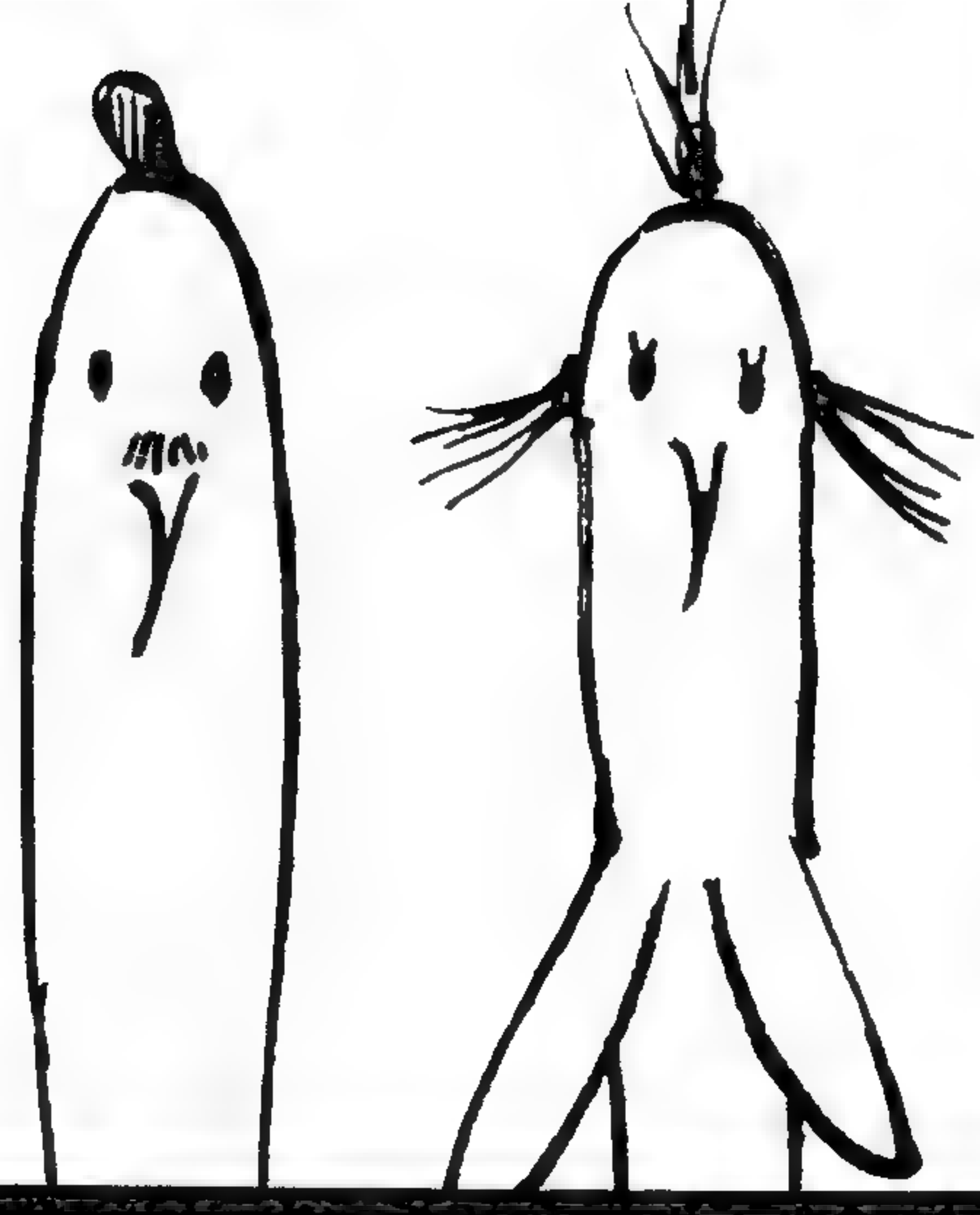
HUFF

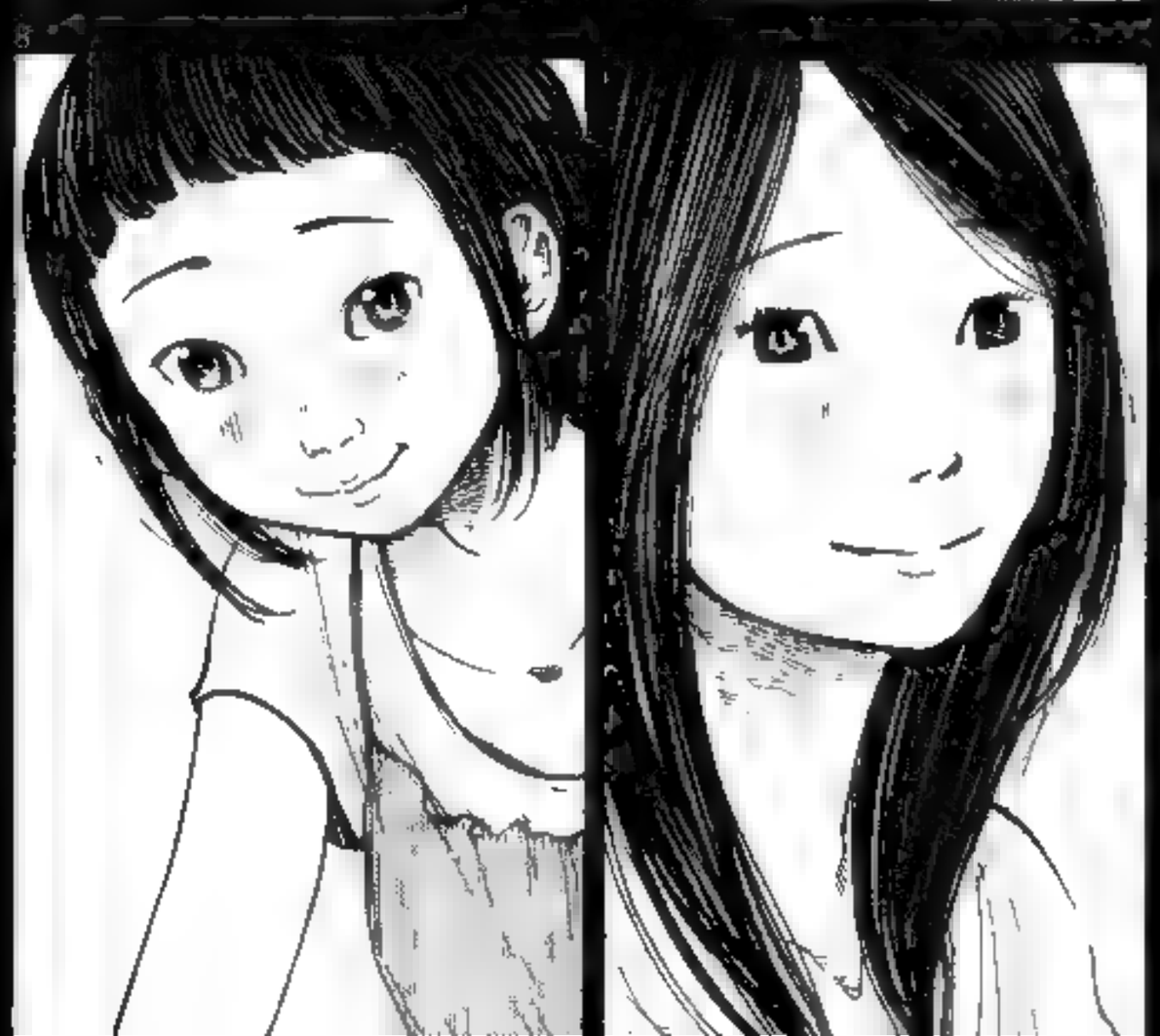
HUFF

HUFF

Punpun...?

*The kanji below is used in the word "prison," and means punishment





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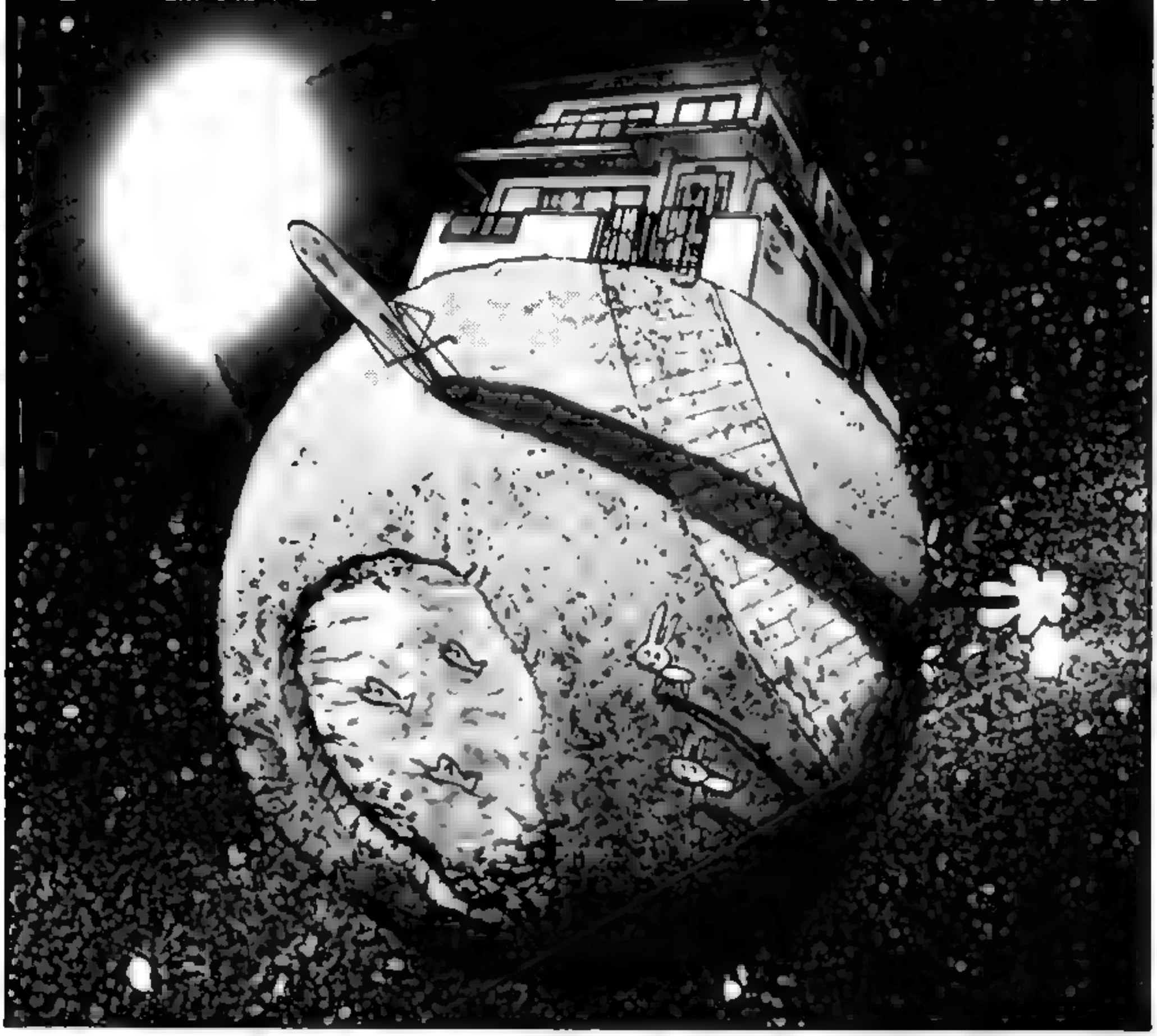

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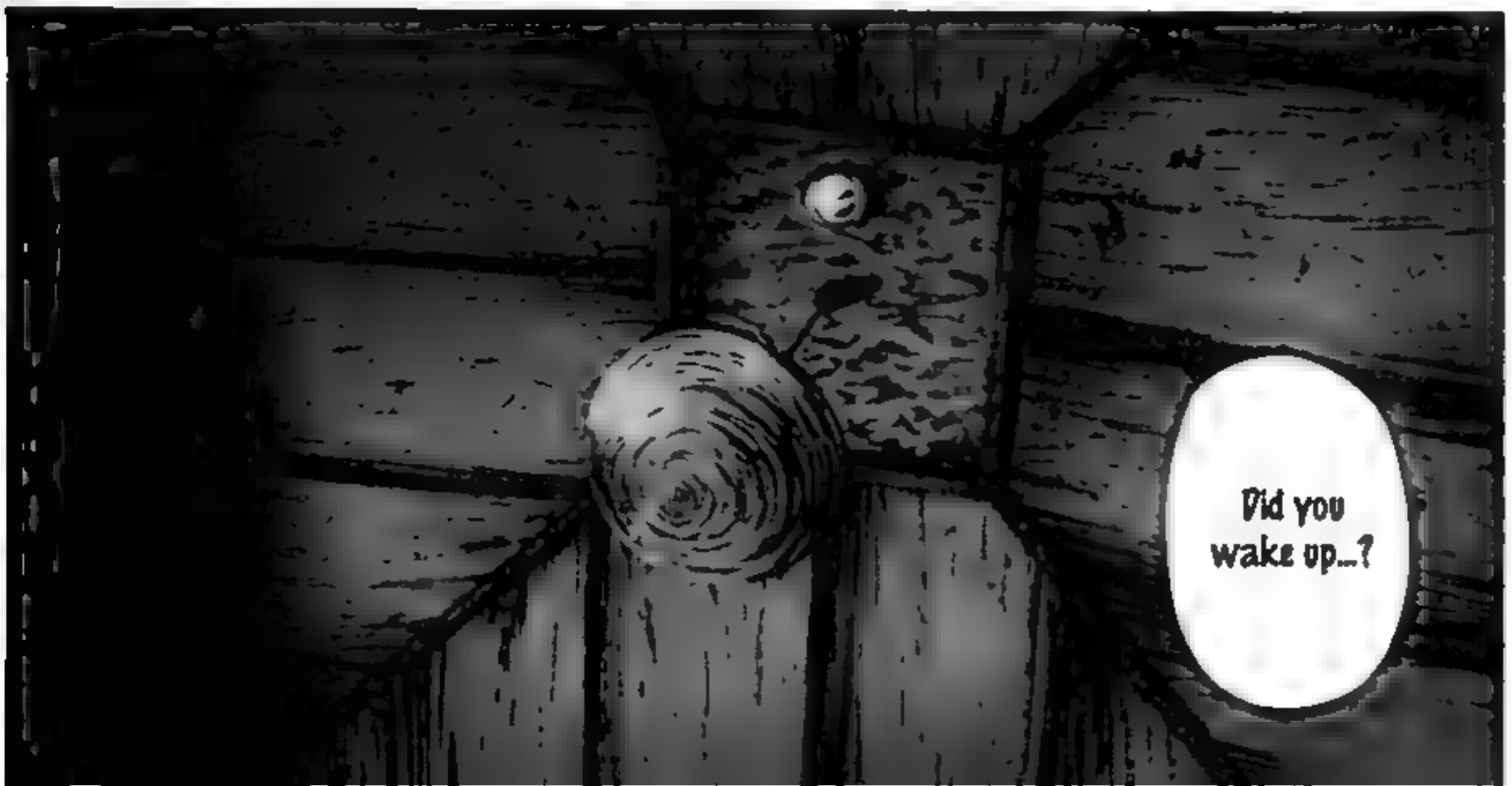


You've got to get some sleep...

You have a fever and an injured leg.

You've hardly slept in the past few days, right?

So don't push yourself so hard...

"I'm scared... I'll wake up from my dream if I fall asleep."

Huh? Shouldn't that be the opposite?

You're weird...

"Harder... Tighter..."

Stop saying weird things.

"You, so do it fighter..."

Please...

You'd die...

If you leave me alone,

Just what am I supposed to do...?

Medical Charges

民宿
紫楽

At XX city of Tokyo Metropolis,
Early morning today,

7:40
50代
物取り
Police have received report of a robbery case.
The suspect is described as a middle-aged man from age 30~40 with black glasses and long hair .
That's my hometown...

aa...

R...

i...

"...Don't worry. It's got nothing to do with us."

7:40

As the police continue their investigation.

They caution nearby residents to be wary of another such inci-

GASP

Aah-

Gahh...

Aah...

Aaa...

Aah...

"Aiko... You know, I..."

"I may be a negative person who often looks back rather than ahead to the future, but I really do feel that I can run faster ahead than anyone in the world right now."

16

グリコ

みんなに笑顔を届けたい。

日商エステム

かぜに改源

CHINTAI

激安スーパー

"So thank you, Aiko. For giving me despair."

"...I'm delighted to realize how strong of a person I really am."

Let's go.

CHAPTER 124

That's why I told you,

To be more honest with yourself!

...Nanjou,

Oh my, Kanie,

This some good meat you have...

Life is full of times when you realize how precious something was, only after you've lost it!

Hello?

GOMEZ

People who were close with Onodera?

Hmm, let me think...

I don't think he had any female friends...

No kidding.

What with that cowardly personality of his...

Even though he didn't really stand out much during high school,

There wasn't really anyone who spoke ill of him either...

Oh, but you know,

Huh...

I could've sworn his lack of self-confidence was caused by some traumatic experience during his school years...

Oh no, no, I never actually liked him. It's just...

I guess it was me just wanting to have an "adult" moment, having finally become a high school student...

Is that what you liked about him, Azusa?

My impression of him was that he was too serious for his own good,

And a little stubborn as well...

It almost seemed as if he couldn't tell a lie...

Whoa, you listenin' to your sister?

Sounds like she's shattering your image of the perfect, pure little sister.

Like I care.

But...

Even after the incident, he still talked to me every now and then, and we sometimes hung out together along with our other friends...

It really seemed like he tried hard not to make things awkward between us.

So... He was nice, to put it simply.

Being *that* considerate just has the opposite effect.

So he was one of *those* guys...

Ohh...

I think it's because he's too self-conscious.

It's just that Onodera has such a low opinion of himself.

That's not to say I like socky, opinionated guys though.

Ha, I'd kick his ass if he ever acted like such a big shot.

He'd be better off if he could genuinely ridicule others.

He's doing pretty well for himself though, you know?

Oh?

Being nice can be a disadvantage in some ways.

But I suppose you wouldn't want him to be too independent.

After all, you loooove having a little pet utterly dependent on you, right?

He might be a freeter, but at least he's supporting himself and studying for his license.

And he never grumbles about it, to boot.

I'd prefer a guy like that over one who has talent but always blows on his own horn.

Mistakenly thinking that he's the only one who could ever understand you.

You love to keep him leashed around, spoiling or spanking him depending on your mood.

You really think you can understand what kind of person he's really like with that kind of attitude?

I feel sorry for you if you can only have such deluded relationships like that for the sake of your pride.

...Then are you saying Punpun can really make it alone!?

Can't you see anyone else's opinion but your own?

You're always overlooking others and making quick judgments about them.

Based only on your narrow perspective! I just want to point out how silly that is!

To put it another way, I'm not just a fatass, despite what you might think!

Mm.

No, not really...

Umm...

Did something happen to Onodera?

You're going out with him, aren't you, Sachi?

Huh?

Misuzu, where's your father?

Oh, he's probably busy flirting with the women in the rehab room.

He's really gotten much better these past few months...

In fact, he's become even more talkative that he's starting to annoy me.

But I suppose I should take solace in the fact that he didn't end up passing away...

The doctors say he won't be able to use his legs again.

英季総合病院

...He hasn't talked this much since I was a little girl.

Yes,

And he always heads to our offices afterwards to use our computer to study for his license exam.

I don't know where he gets them, but he comes 2-3 times every week to drop off some more.

Oh, in case you're wondering,

It was Onodera who brought all those maneki-neko dolls.

Oh...

Punpun comes by here that often?

I'm still looking for him...

...Has he still not come back yet?

Here, this is the key to his place.

Well, I hope he comes back soon.

My father misses him a lot.

Oh, thank you.

Right...

We can't have him get wrapped up in some sort of incident at such a critical time of his life now, can we?

He's got his MOS exam coming up, not to mention the online courses left for his real estate license.

If anything about his place seems strange, don't be afraid to call the police.

Oh that reminds me,

He should've received the results of his PC proficiency test by now.

I promised that I'd buy a new computer for him if he passed, you know.

...That kid's too self-conscious for his own good.

Did you know he's been stupidly trying to hide how hard he's been studying?

Haha, strong effort's one of those things you just can't hide. I've actually been talking with some business associates of mine to see if I can arrange an interview for him.

...Oh.

I never heard about any of that.

Well, you're busy with your manga career.

I'm sure he didn't tell you because he didn't want to distract you.

Just what...

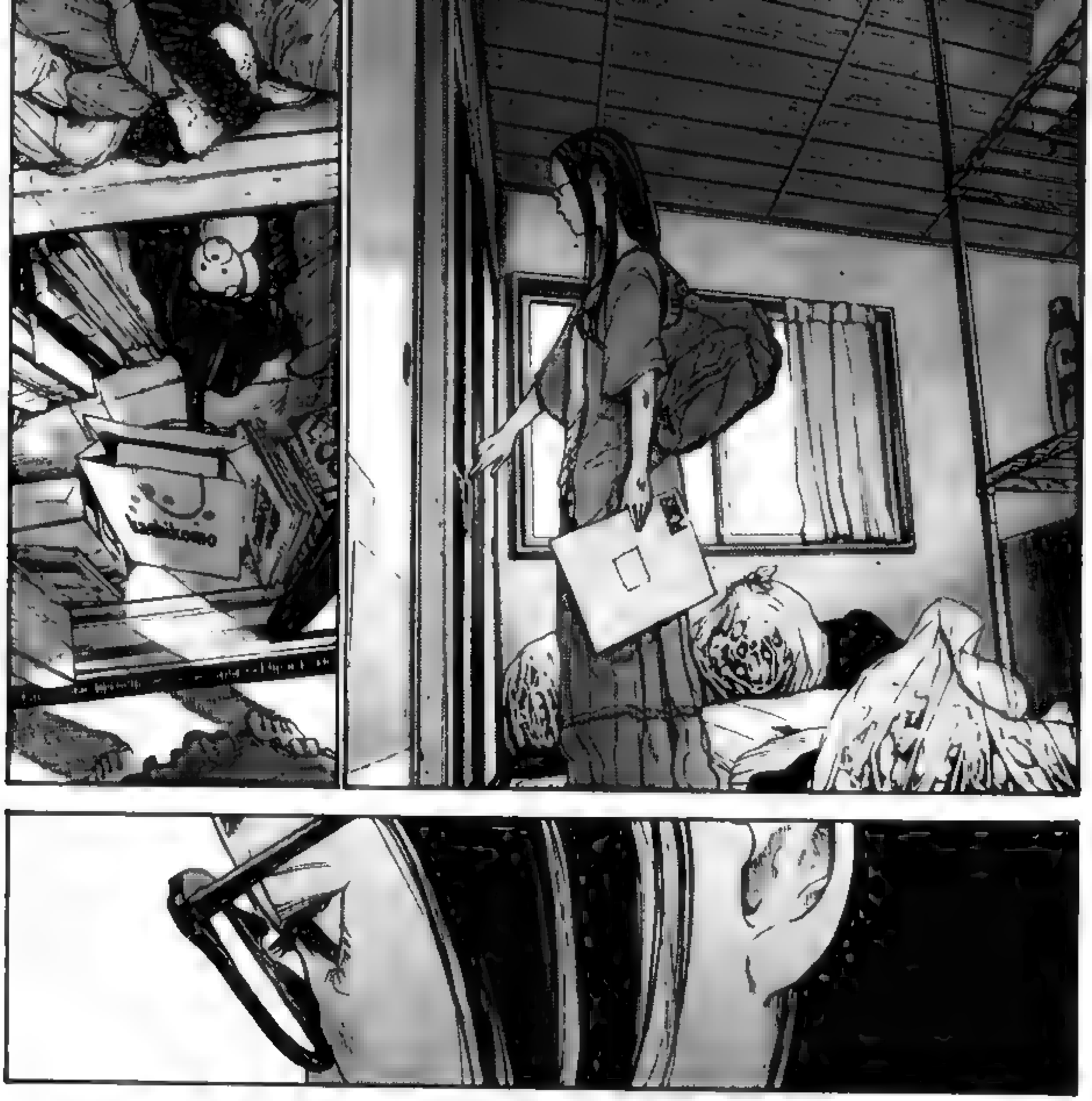
Do I actually know about Punpun...?

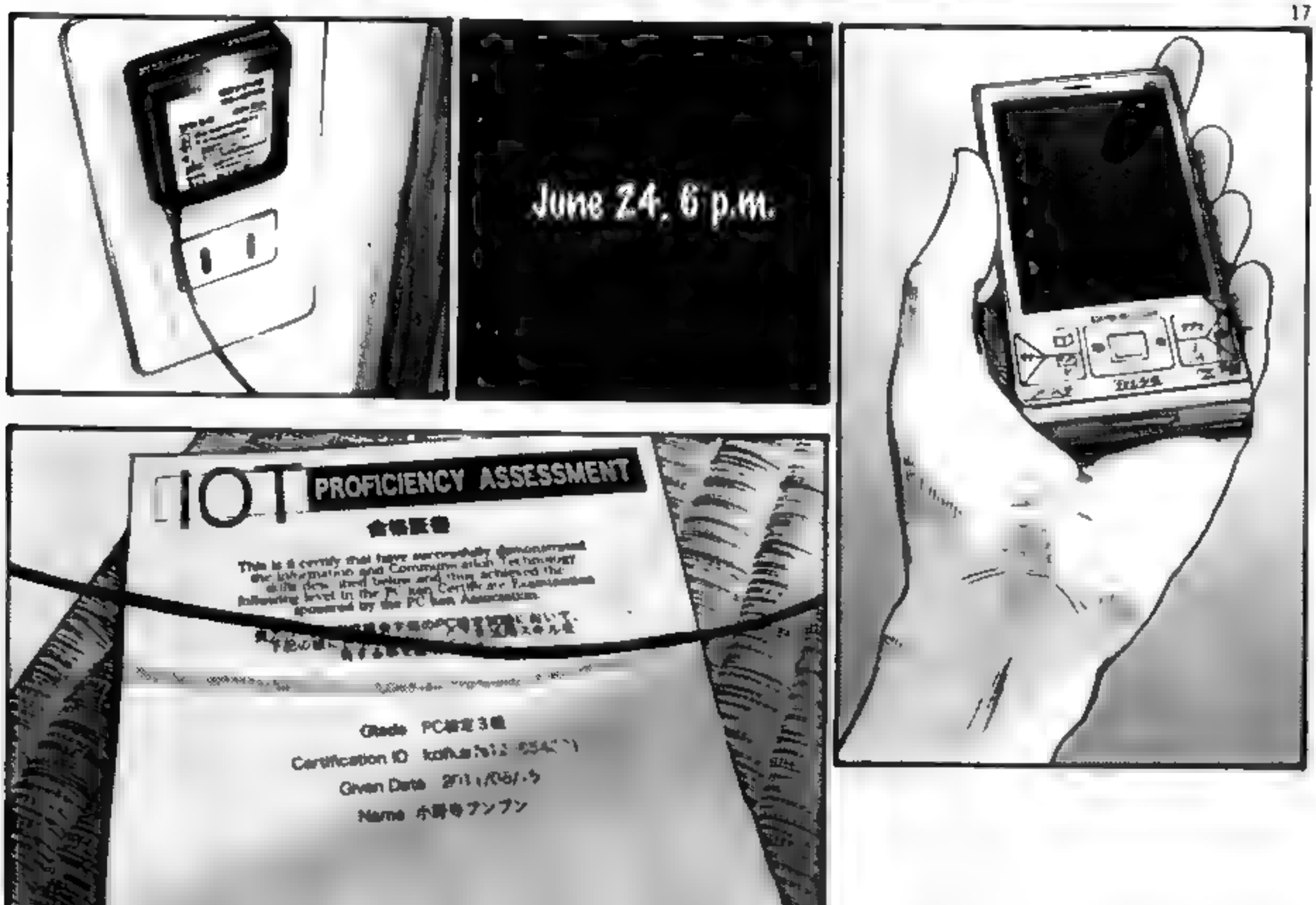
PC proficiency test

Ah-

Just what the hell,

Is that idiot doing...?




June 24, 6 p.m.
IOT
PROFICIENCY ASSESSMENT

beep

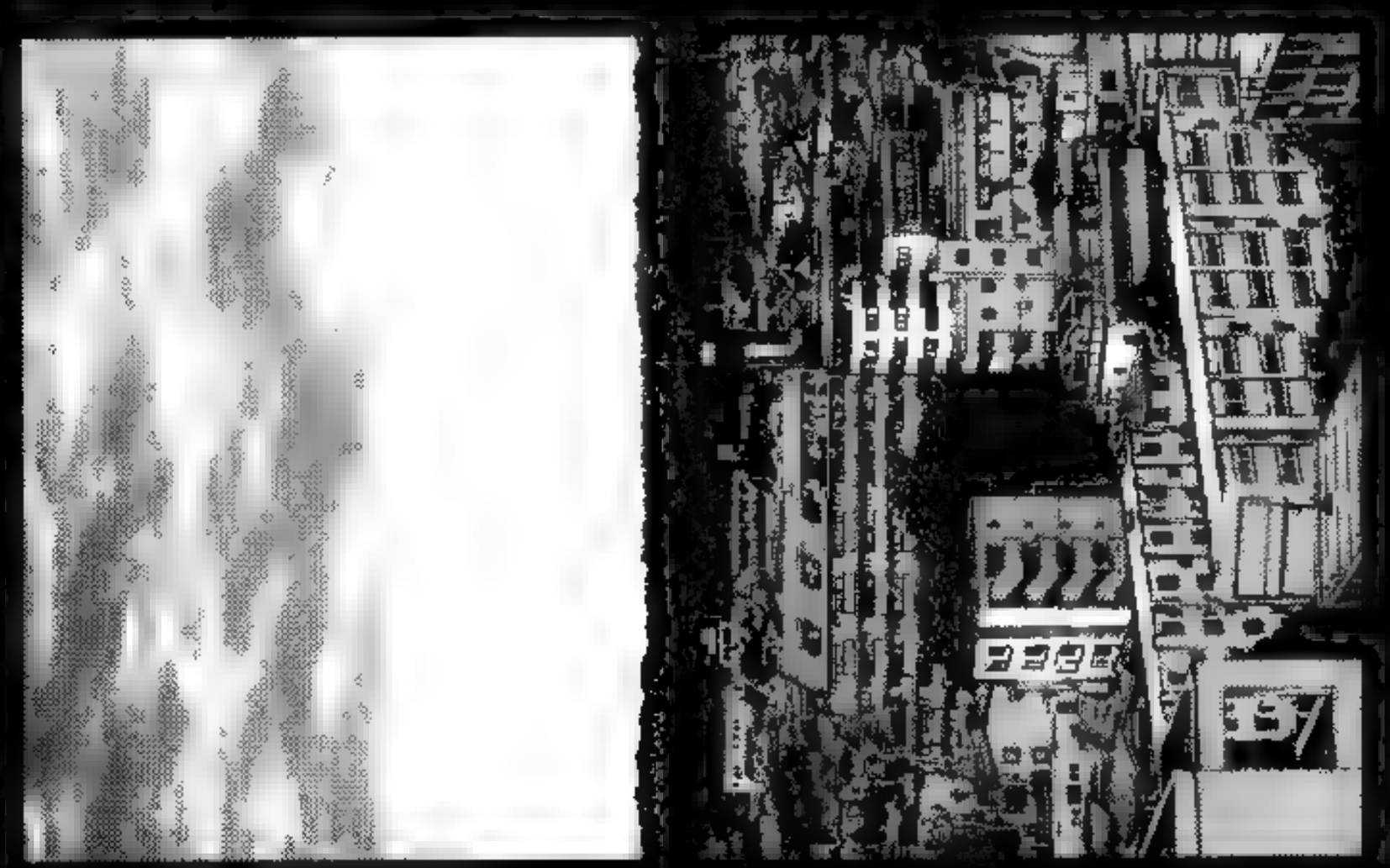
001 Ookuma Midori

beep

beep

beep

...What a wimp.



CHAPTER 125

June 25, 3:00 p.m.

Sorry, I know it must've been a long way coming here, but I'm afraid I don't know where he is...

Oh no, no, I should be the one apologizing for coming on such short notice...

Well,

In any case, why don't you take a seat?

He never picks up when I try calling him so I thought he wasn't using it at all...

So he actually was using that cell phone, was he now...

I see,

Oh,

It's Nanjou.

...Are you a friend of his from work?

What was your [redacted] again?

Midori,

Why don't we just send the phone back to his apartment?

Well Nanjou,

Don't you think it'd be better if you held onto this...?

After all, I can't imagine him actually coming here just to find his cell phone...

His friend here says he hasn't been home recently.

He's also not been going to his part-time job either...

Though I am a little worried,

Punpun's a good, hard-working kid, after all.

I'm sure he's fine in any case.

That child doesn't like it very much when I meddle with his life...

Umm...

Have you talked with Punpun recently?

Well, my husband last called him on New Year's, so I guess it's been half a year since I last spoke with him...

He sounded very happy when I told him I was pregnant.

Right.

I can see your belly's gotten quite big...

Yes, next week is my expected delivery date.

Although I won't be able to manage this shop for some time after the birth, I'm actually thinking of expanding out to a second shop...

It'd be nice if you and Punpun could come visit us once I've got it up and running.

Manager, you have a call waiting!

Sorry about my wife.

It can be a little hard to get through to her.

She's probably one of those people who thinks the world revolves around her.

But that's also why she can carry out things so well without a hitch. A wonderful trait.

...Nanjou,

You're...

Not just a simple friend of Punpun from work, are you now?

To tell you the truth...

I've attached myself to Punpun for entirely selfish reasons.

I'm sorry I have no idea where to find him.

Though I am his blood relative, our sense of "family" has always been rather flimsy...

You searched through his house?

When I checked his house, I found some girl's clothes along with blood-stained bedsheets.

I even sniffed the tissue wads.

I'm creepy, aren't I?

Inside the garbage can [redacted] semen-crusted tissues.

But at the same time, I also find you quite commendable.

Yes, quite.

発行者 白泉社

The house Punpun lived in until middle school.

This is...

安全

安全

I'm sure the newly built house will be home to a happy family.

It wasn't even that old of a house,

But as they say, out with the old, in with the new...

Construction Plan Notice

Umm...

Why did you bring me here...?

Thinking back on it now,

The few years during which Punpun and I lived together were blissful.

Or perhaps it was *because* we knew it was only temporary,

That we did our best to play the part of a happy family.

Even though we both knew things couldn't stay like that forever-

Though I now've found "peace" with my new family, I'm just a mere husk,

Trudging along day after day by clinging on to something known as hope, only in name.

Nevertheless, I have no intentions of denying my fate. After all, a part of me had wished for this.

Because you see,

I understand him!

I know what it is he's really longing for...!

To be honest,

I don't mind whatever Punpun is doing, wherever he is,

As long as he himself made the choice to do it.

He used to be a much more talkative boy who freely showed his emotions.

...Though he's rather aloof and taciturn now.

If you intend on bearing the burden of becoming his partner,

You ought to learn more about Punpun's true self...

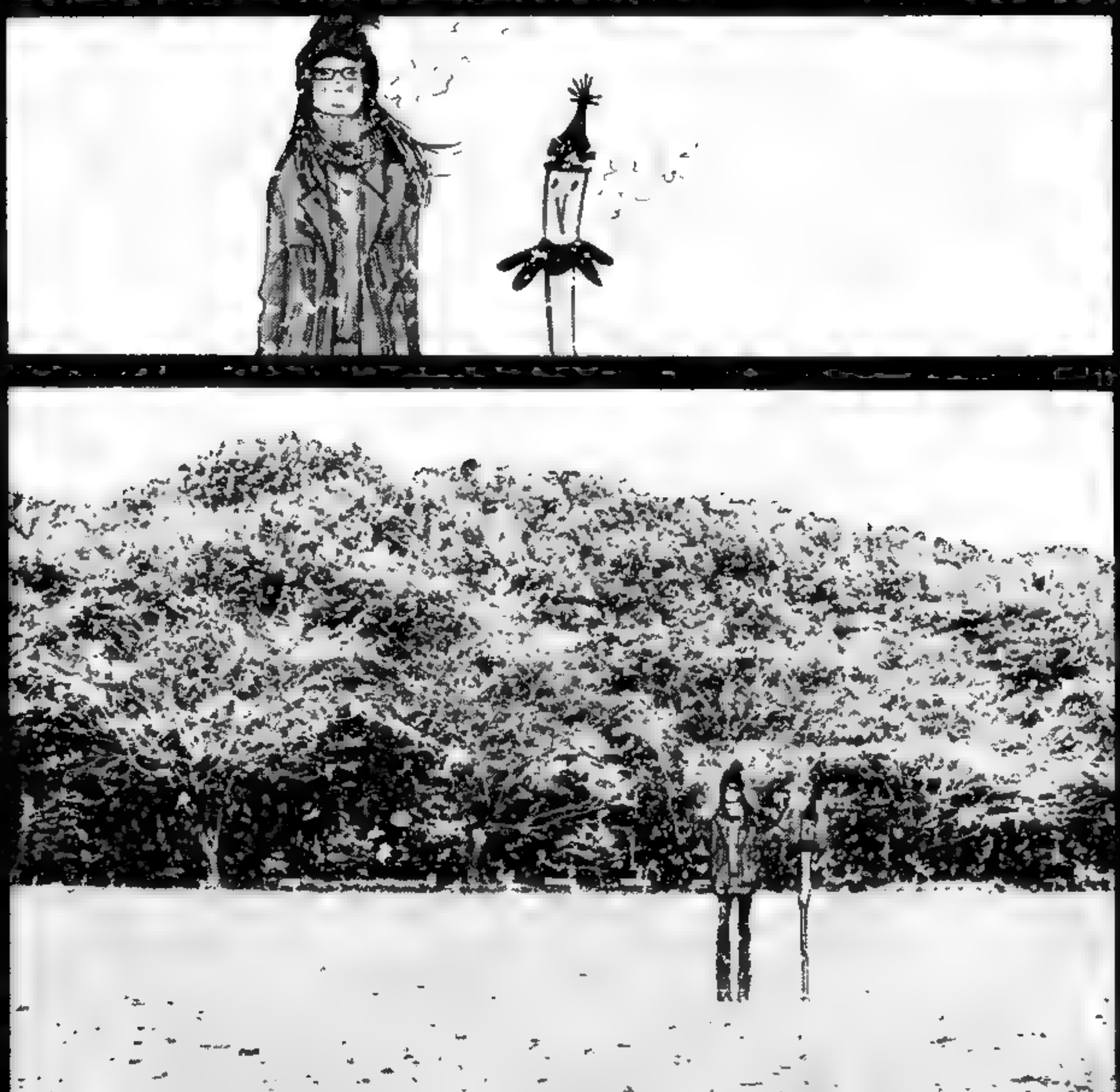
Especially because...

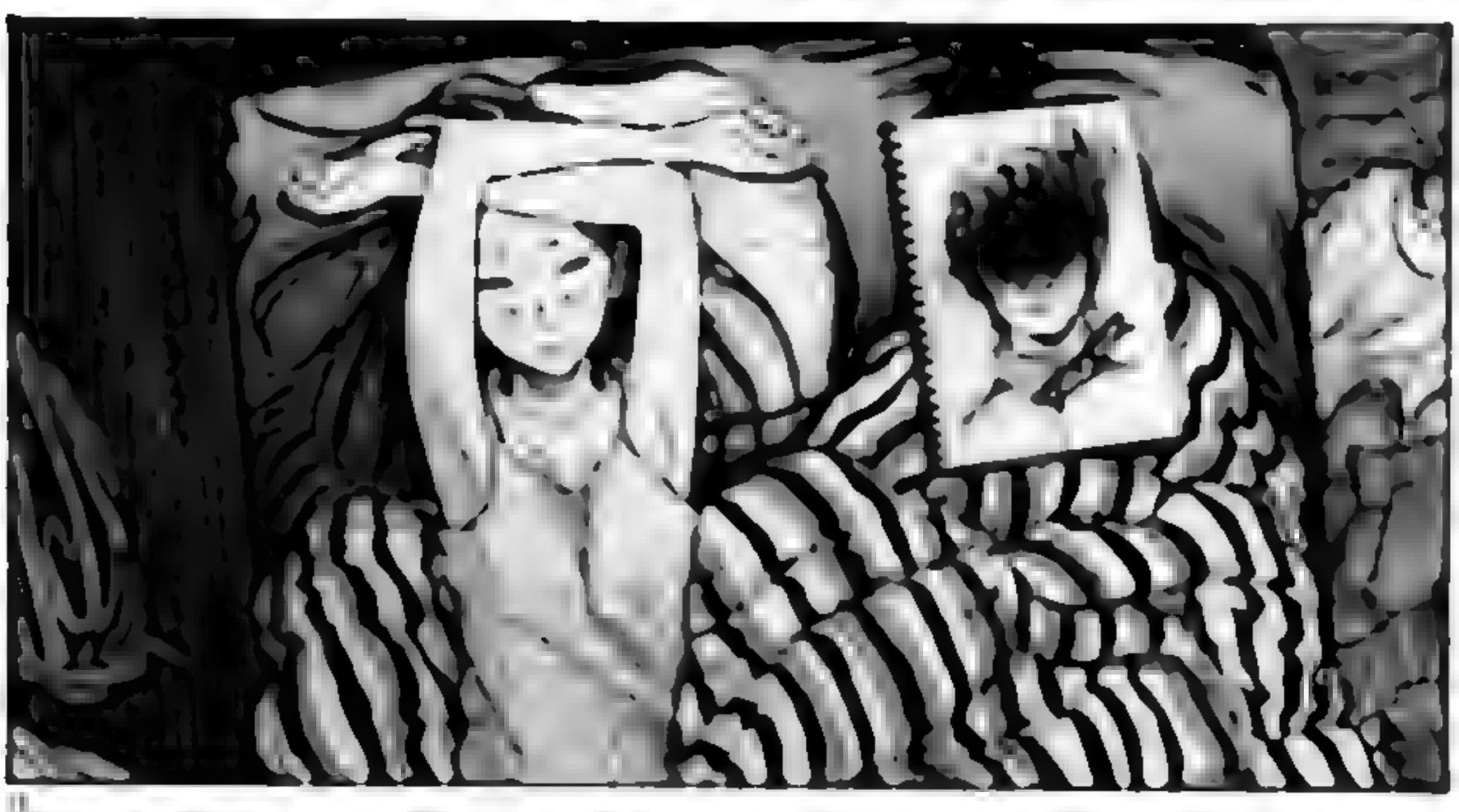
You're just like his mother...!

When I called him last New Year's, he told me he had someone he wanted to introduce me to.

I'm guessing that person was you, Nanjou, wasn't it?

4F
UKU
MYL





You're pregnant?

Uhhh yeah, sorry for the late notice...

But I must confess that is a little worrying.

You see, the chief editor has taken an interest in your oneshot in our latest issue set to go on sale tomorrow.

And he wanted to inquire if you could perhaps turn it into a 2 volume-long project...

Oh no, no need to apologize. Contratulations, actually.

I...

I'll gladly do it, of course...

I've got to give it my best shot,

Sell a ton of my manga,

And finally become normal.

I'm more flawed than others,

So the only way I can place myself on the same starting line as them is through sheer effort.

2 volumes in about half a year...

...That means I really have to get cracking.

...But,

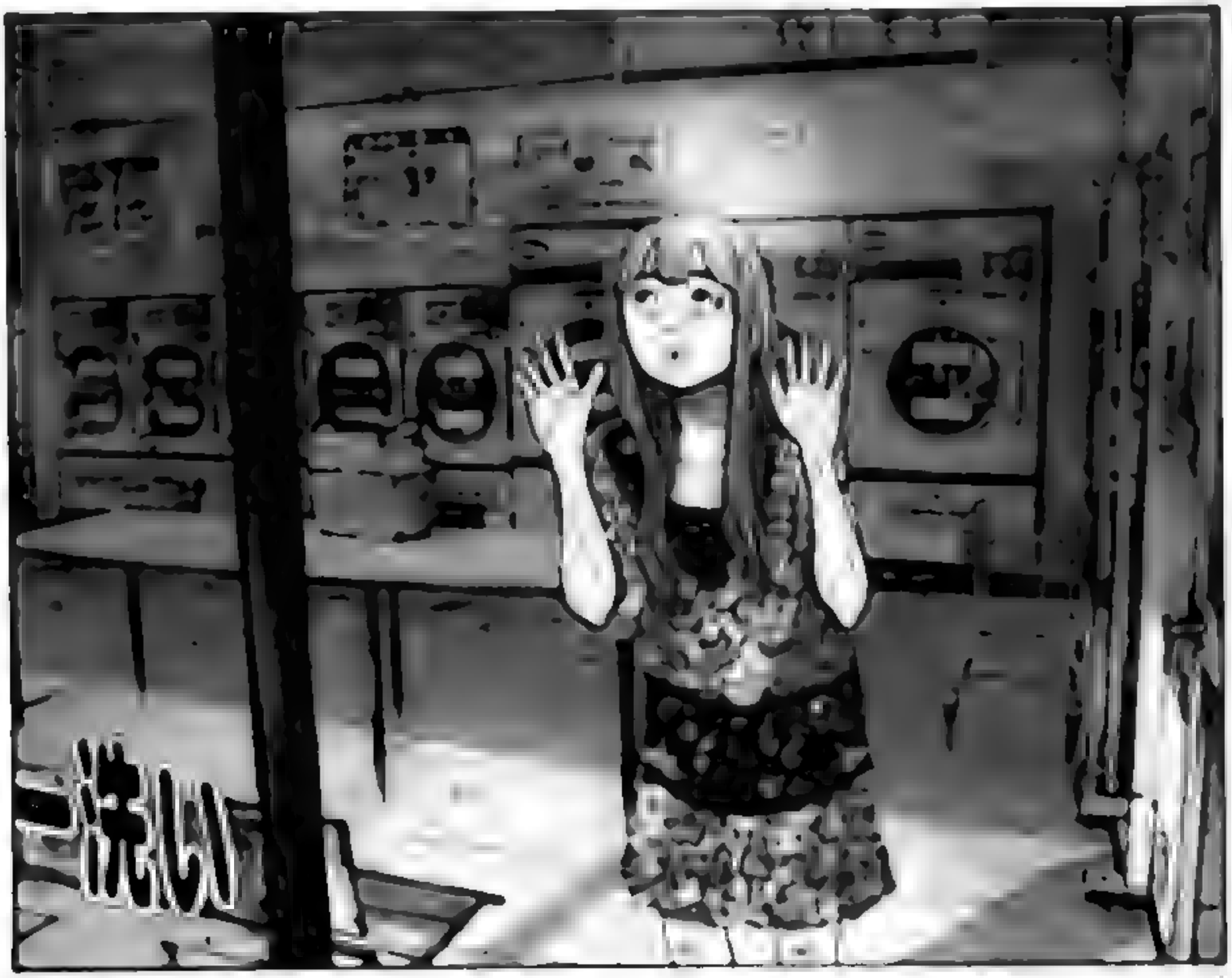
Ugh...

Once that happens...

This hair's in the way...

Just who can I share my joy with...?

CHAPTER 126



All day you'll have good luck.

See a pin and pick it up.

See a pin and let it lay.

Bad luck you'll have all the day...

2

"Sorry."

Where's my sorry-kiss?

"...We may have to sleep in the car for a few nights."

You know that's not what I'm asking for.

June 26, 5:00 p.m.

June 26, Night.

Rain again...

...Always raining.

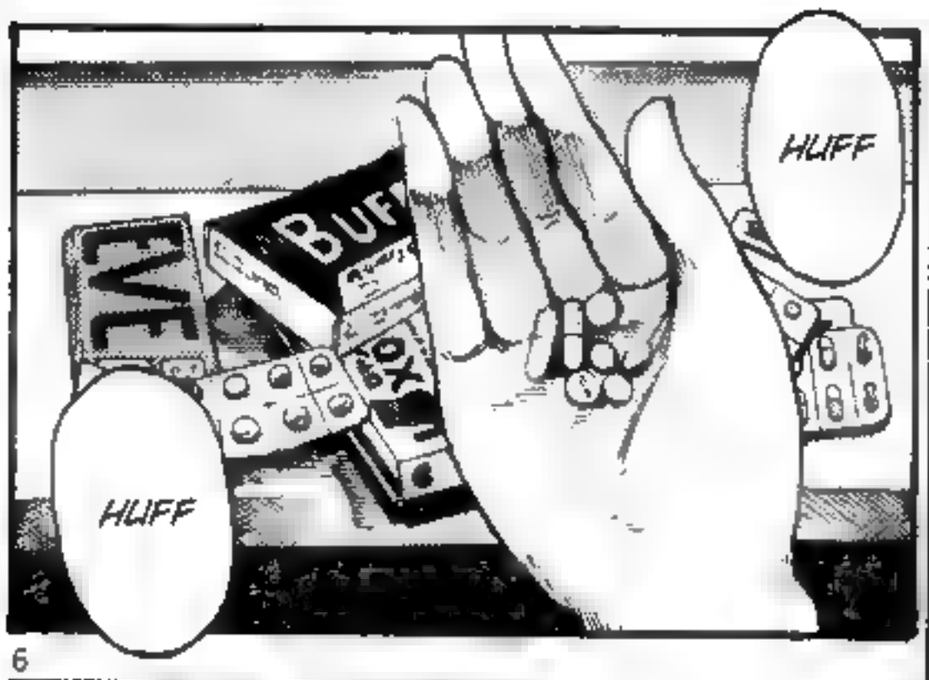
...How sad it is for those two to be separated for so long...

...can never see the Milky Way.

KASEVA

KASEVA

June 27, Morning



HUFF

HUFF

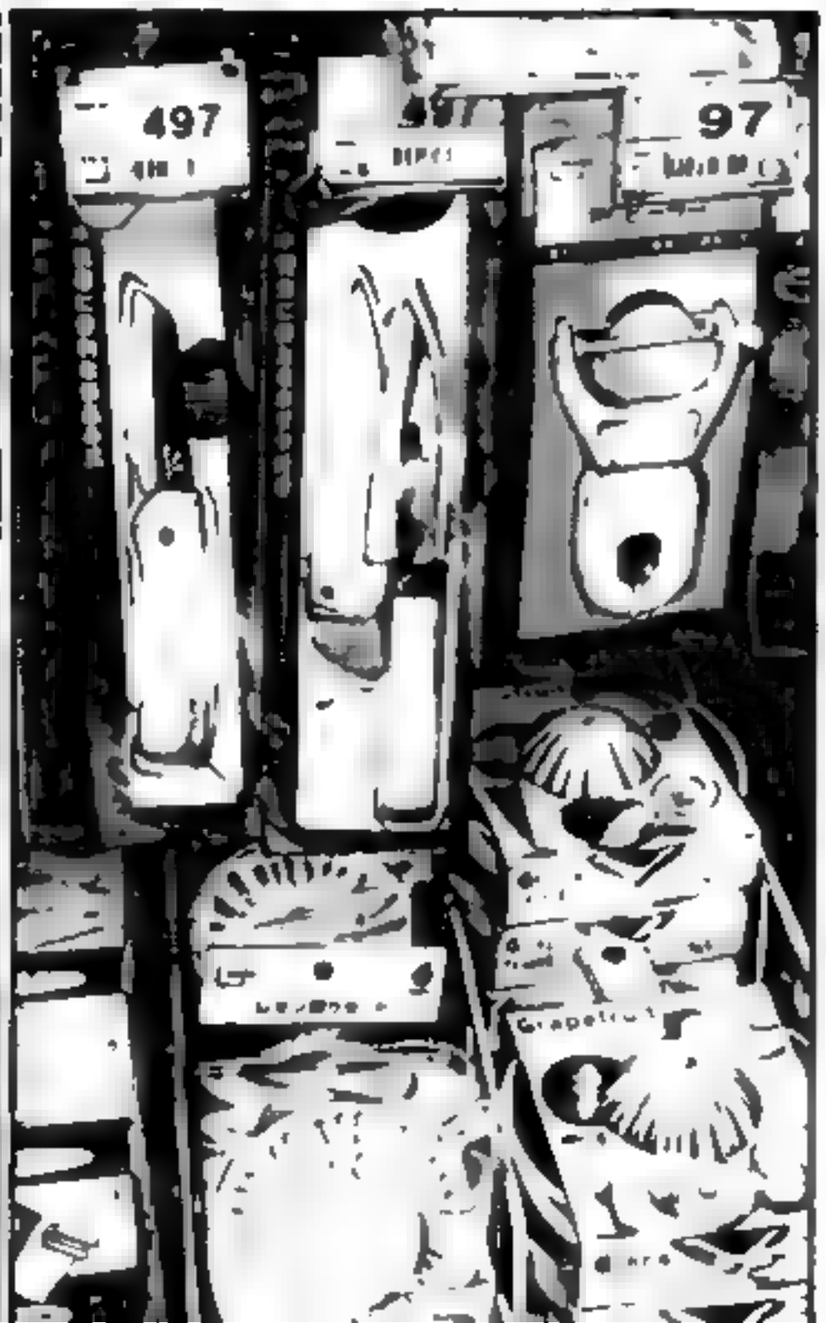
HUFF

HUFF

7

化粧室

Hahaha!


497
97

25

Warm Hot

七夕

I'm writing a wish for Tanabata.

"Well, stop. That's so stupid."

"...What a lame purse."

Mmm...

Nuh...

Uh...

"...Stop. I'm really not in the mood for this."

Hang on a sec...

I'm trying to think...

"...Aiko."

"...I told you to stop."

NNNOO OOOOOO OOOOOO OOOOOO

OOO!

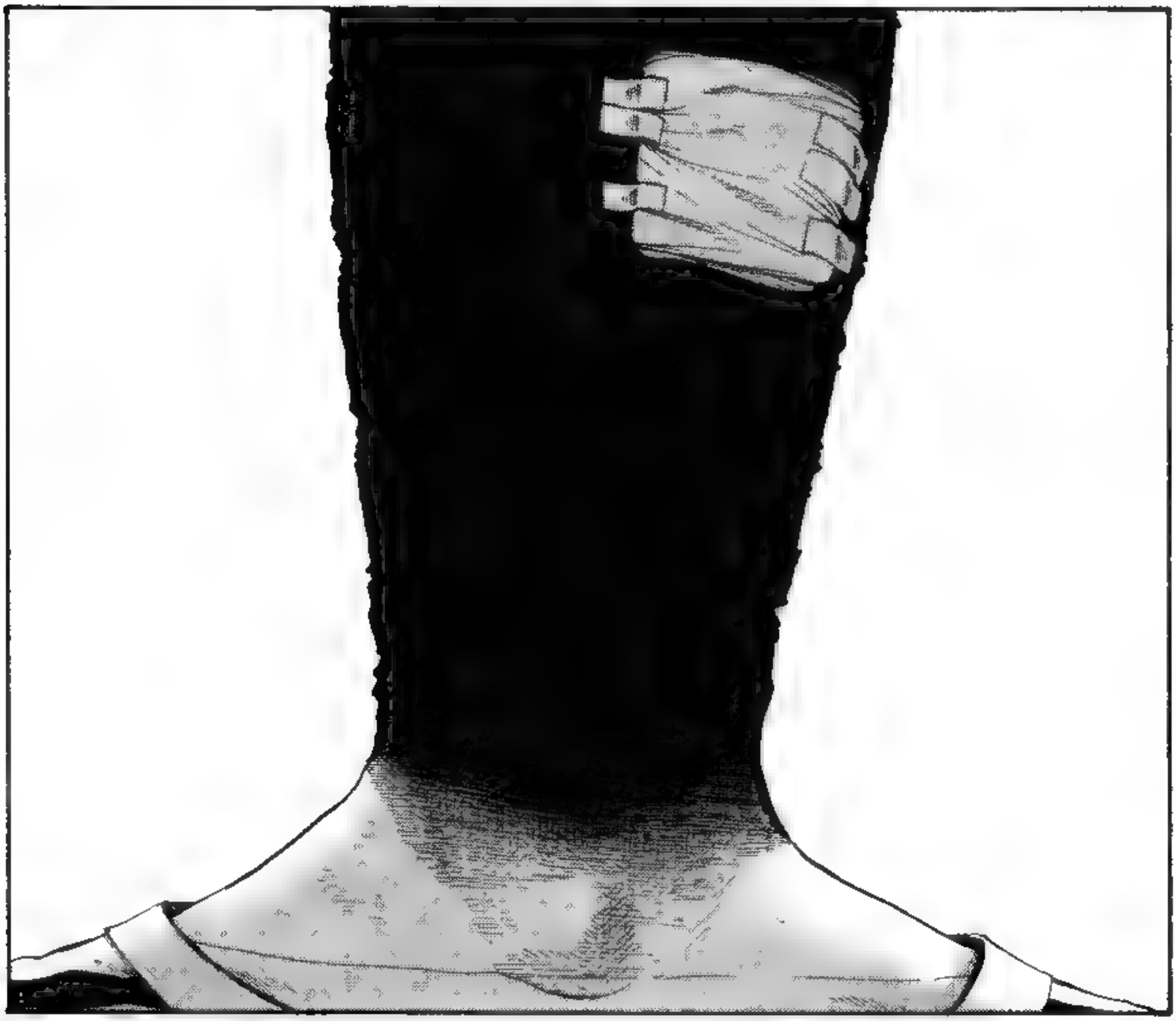
STOOOP!

BANG

UU...

SNIFF

"Don't worry. It's just a normal lover's spat."



"...So quit staring at us,
you dipshits."

MAウス
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK

...Punpun,

Your back is burning up...

Do you have another fever...?

You should get some sleep...

We're almost at Kagoshima now...

Let's find a proper place to sleep once there...

Search Images Play

prison term for murder

eb Images

ut 310,000 results (0.2

"...Just what am I doing in a place like this?"

CLACK

"...Aiko."

CLACK

画像 地図 May Youtube ニュ

murder on the run

CLACK

CLACK

Web Images Map Shopping

bout 3,620,000 results (0.26 seconds)

Punpun...

So please don't die...

You can't go dying on me...

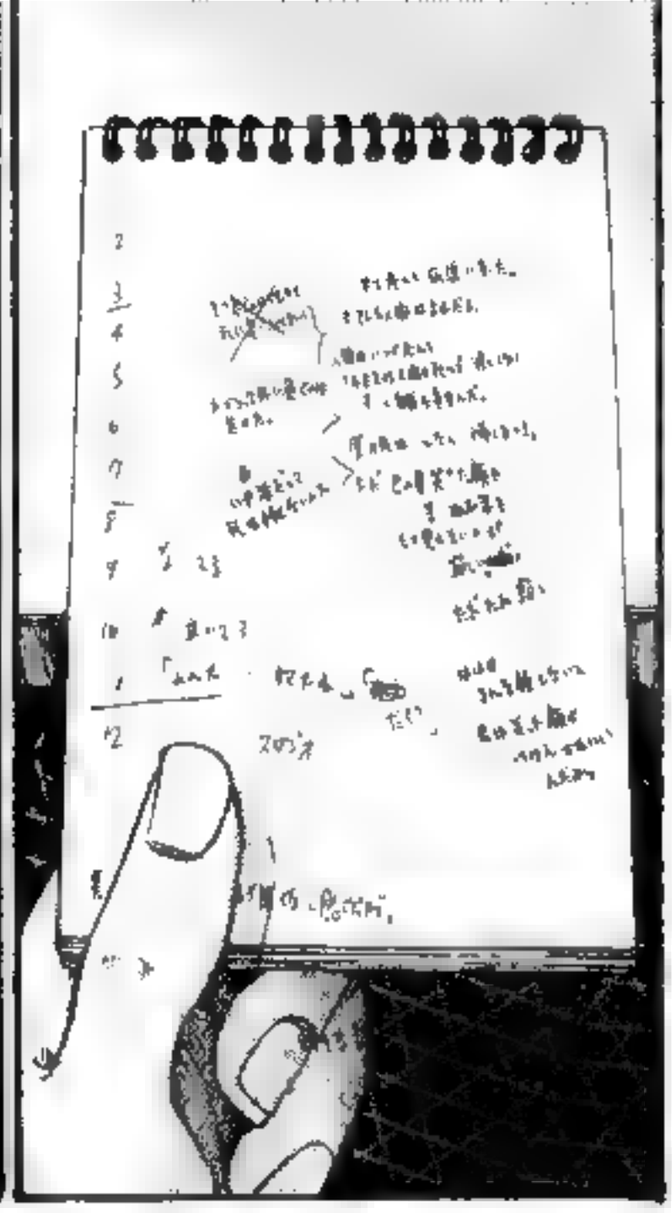
suicide methods

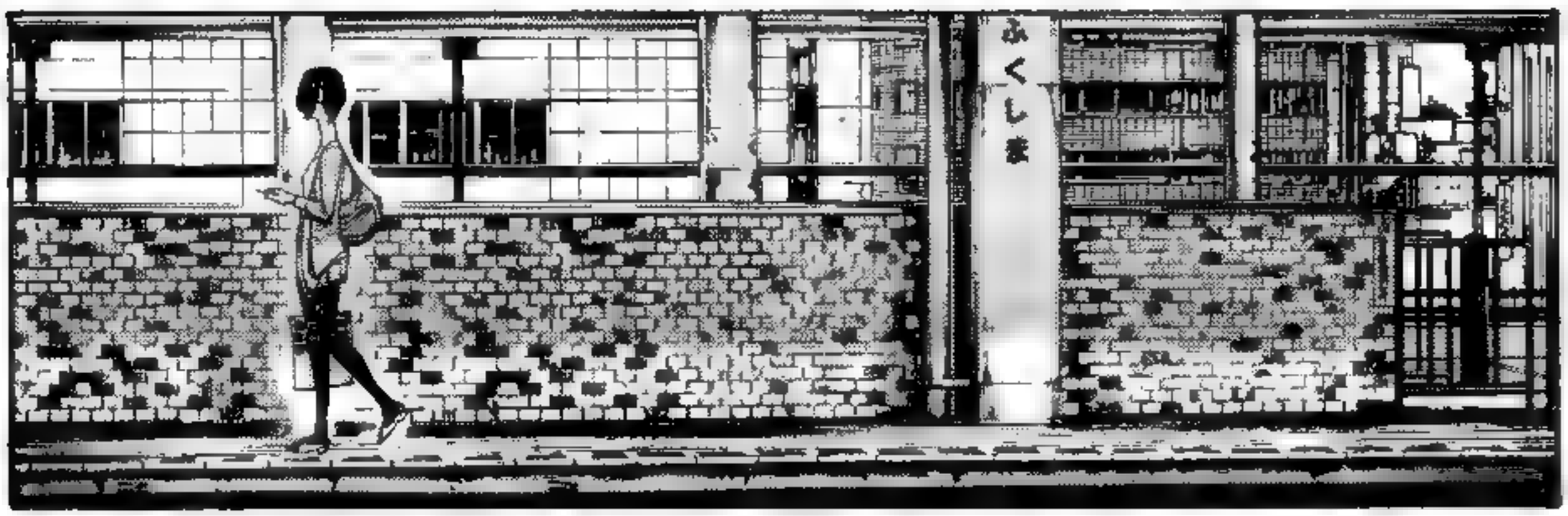
"Did I... really kill a person?"

The Yamabiko No. 177 train headed for Sendai is-

The No. 20 has now arrived.

CHAPTER 127





June 28

折 返
入口

*sign reads that it's a nursing home for the elderly

Mr. Punyama?

He's out walking with one of the residents right now but he'll be right back.

Mr. Punyamaaa!

There's a visitor here for you!

She's a young woman all the way from Tokyo.

Oh, hello there!

Oh, umm, actually...

...Well.

Yes, I suppose so...

So Punpun hasn't been home for a while, has he now...

Yuuichi has already filled me in on the details.

...Well, you certainly do seem like a strong-willed girlfriend.

Must be hard living together when you're both a couple of 20-somethings.

Maybe he's taking a trip somewhere far away...?

Though even if that were the case, there's no way he'd come here to my place.

After all, we haven't met since his mother passed away...

...I wonder why. Perhaps he hates me...

But I have to say,

My boy must be doing alright if he can have a girl as beautiful as you for a girlfriend, Nishimura.

Oh,

It's actually Nanjou.

Oh right,

Yuuichi told me you wanted to hear more about Punpun when he was a child.

Yes, as long as it wouldn't be a bother...

Oh, of course not. It's just that my memory's not so good, you know...

Oh...

That's a little unexpected.

Perhaps I'm biased, considering I'm his parent and all.

But he seemed much smarter and more mature than the other kids his age...

Well... Punpun used to be quite an outgoing and talkative boy when he was young.

Since you've come all the way from Tokyo, why don't you come over and I'll tell you all about my son.

My home is just behind this building.

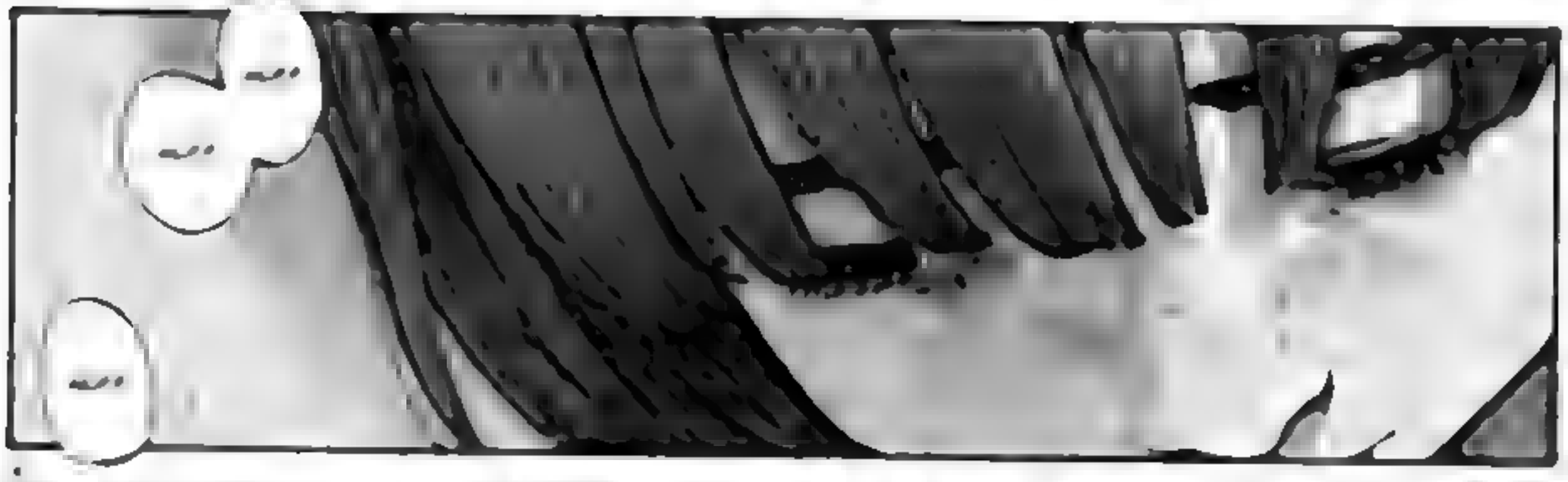
Nishi-mura,

HUFF...

HUFF

HUFF

الله
الله



'scuse me, I'd like to make my purchase!

The latest work by our highly-anticipated newcomer!

NANJOU SACHI

URGHH!

HUFF

COUGH! COUGH!

MN-

URF...

HEY!

AND YOU CALL YOURSELF AN EMPLOYEE HERE!?

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M IN A RUSH!?

Sorry sir, but our shop is currently enquiring the manufacturer for-

'Scuse me! I said I'd like to buy this but there ain't anyone at the counter here!

無!

Can I eat this oden?

UU...

WAAAA AAAHHH!

Oh, for goodness sake...

What, you mean this?

Huh?

"Excuse me,"

"...Is that manga interesting?"

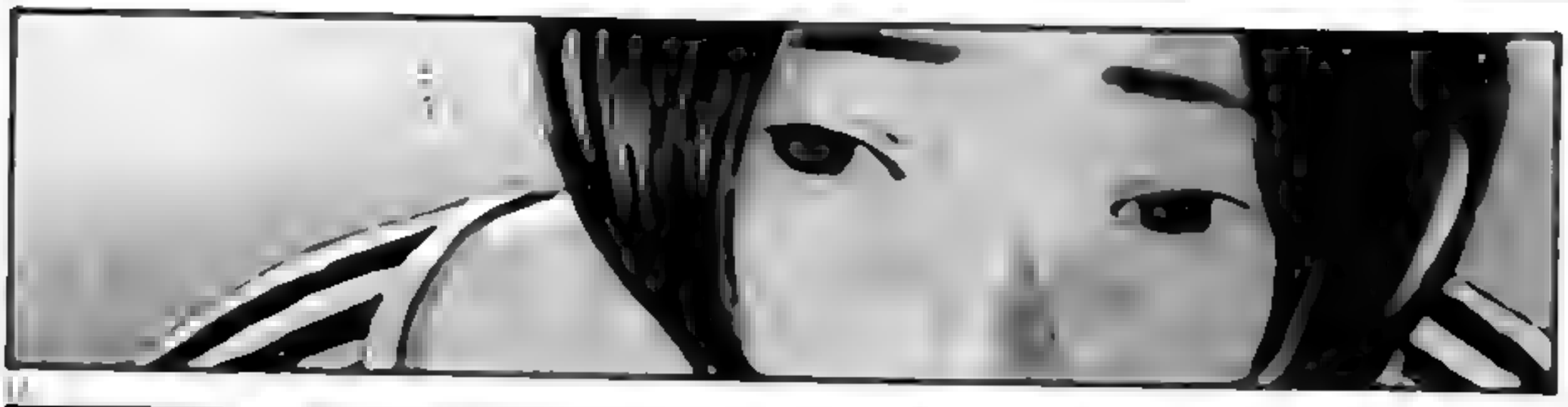
Nah, it's pretty boring.

All these characters are so clueless.

WAAHHHH!

Can I please get someone here at the cash register!

FINE! JUST GET THE MANAGER ALREADY!



Sorry if the place is a lil' messy.
Sit wherever you want.

Umm.

You really don't have to-

Now where did I put those cookies...

14

Punyama!

You in there?

...And what's she doing here?

Huh? Who's she...?

Oh haha, that's a long story...

Oh, she's just Punpun's girlfriend.

CHU

Ah, let me introduce you, Nanjou.

Hey, what was that now!?

Hello there.

These are my fishing-mates.

Give us a more proper introduction! At least tell her our names!

Hello, kids.

Aren't you just adorable.

Ah-

They ran away!

You know, Nanjou,

My pals here and I have all been divorced once before.

What's with them? Maybe they got nervous 'cause they've never seen such a beautiful lady!

Are all thanks to my buddies.

My curent job and the low rent for this house,

Punyama,

You should've told us you were gonna have a guest! I could've at least brought more beer...

We often get together like this in the evening when we're free.

Cheers!

Well, in any case...

Umm...

Do you.

Need anything from me?

"...It's not good to leave empty cans on the ground."

Oh...

Sorry, my bad.

Punpun?

Huh?

"...There's no point in saying sorry to me."

...Well, the trash can by that store is almost always filled to the top.

Since it's clearly the store's negligence that's at fault.

I've told the store about it couple times before but they haven't done much about it.

Don't you think they ought to bear the responsibility of cleaning up empty cans by that store?

"It's not the apology that matters, it's you realizing that these kinds of careless actions are what's ruining it for everyone."

"...You didn't check the trash can this time though, right?"

"But you didn't check today, right?"

Like I said, it's "almost always" filled to the top.

Hm...

Alright, fine. I understand.

Why don't we go back and check if it's full or not?

As you pointed out, it's certainly possible that the trash can wasn't full today.

But. If we go back and the trash can *is* full, I hope you'll admit that you're criticizing me on faulty grounds.

And in such a case, I think it's only fair you owe me an apology.

After all, not only did you offend me, you've also wasted my valuable time.

"Enough with the excuses. Can't you even throw away one empty can without grumbling?"

Oh, I see how it is.

You know, I think I'll just go throw this in the trash can by the vending machine just ahead from here.

You can't complain then, right?

I mean, out of all the people in that store,

You just had to pick "me" out, even though others were causing more of a disturbance?

Why're you even picking on me to lord over your sense of justice?

"...Stop trying to change the topic."

But before I leave, I do want you to think one thing over.

Out of all the people in that store back then, including me and you,

Who exactly the strangest person was.

"...Just what exactly is it you want to say?"

But whatever

This is getting stupid so I'll just come out and say it

It's rather that I want you to *realize* something.

It's not that I want to say something.

It honestly annoys me so much that I'm more depressed than angry.

Go on living just fine even as they abuse their deluded notions of right and wrong.

When I think of how people like you.

"Guys like you piss me off the most."

"...You're a real mouthy punk aren't you?"

What was that?

"I said guys like you piss me off the most."

Bamboo leaves are rustling, rustling,

Swaying close to the roof's edge~

Yeah, Kaede's got the lead role as Orihime,

But Tenma got stuck with the part of Shooting Star A!

Is this for a play at their kindergarten?

Ahahaha! You kids are too good!

I personally think it's pretty cool.

Aww, what's wrong with being a shooting star?

Hee hee, kids are so warm!

Oho! Looks like he likes you!

Whoops,

Guess I touched a nerve there...

Ah-

I just remembered...

It wasn't the first time Punpun had gone missing...

I think it was back when Punpun was in the 2nd grade...

This time, he was chasing a shooting star,

And the police in the next town over finally manged to find him.

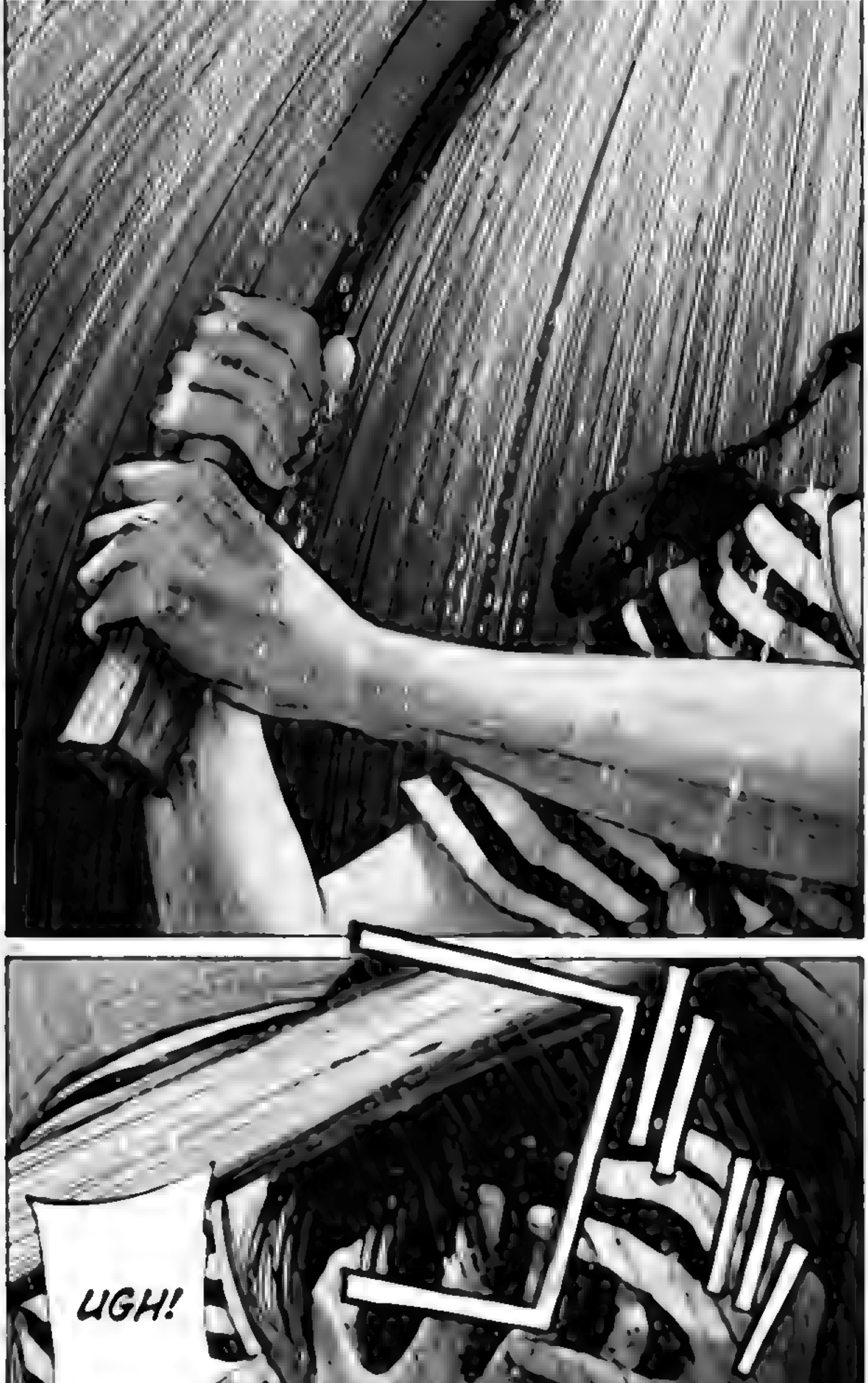
That gave everyone quite the panic, I recall...

There was this boy called Watanabe who was Punpun's closest friend back then.

Apparently, the boy had told his friends,

That he had once caught a falling star.

It was just another one of those silly little lies that kids tell but...


UGH!

I think that Punpun

Didn't want to think of his best friend as a liar...

So when he heard the news report about when to see the next group of falling stars,

The two of them decided go find and possibly catch them.

Somewhere along the way, the two must've become lost.

And Punpun ended up in the next town over.

While his friend Watanabe was hit by a motorcycle at an intersection before being found by the police.

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

AHH!

GAH!

UGHH!

AGHHHHHHHH

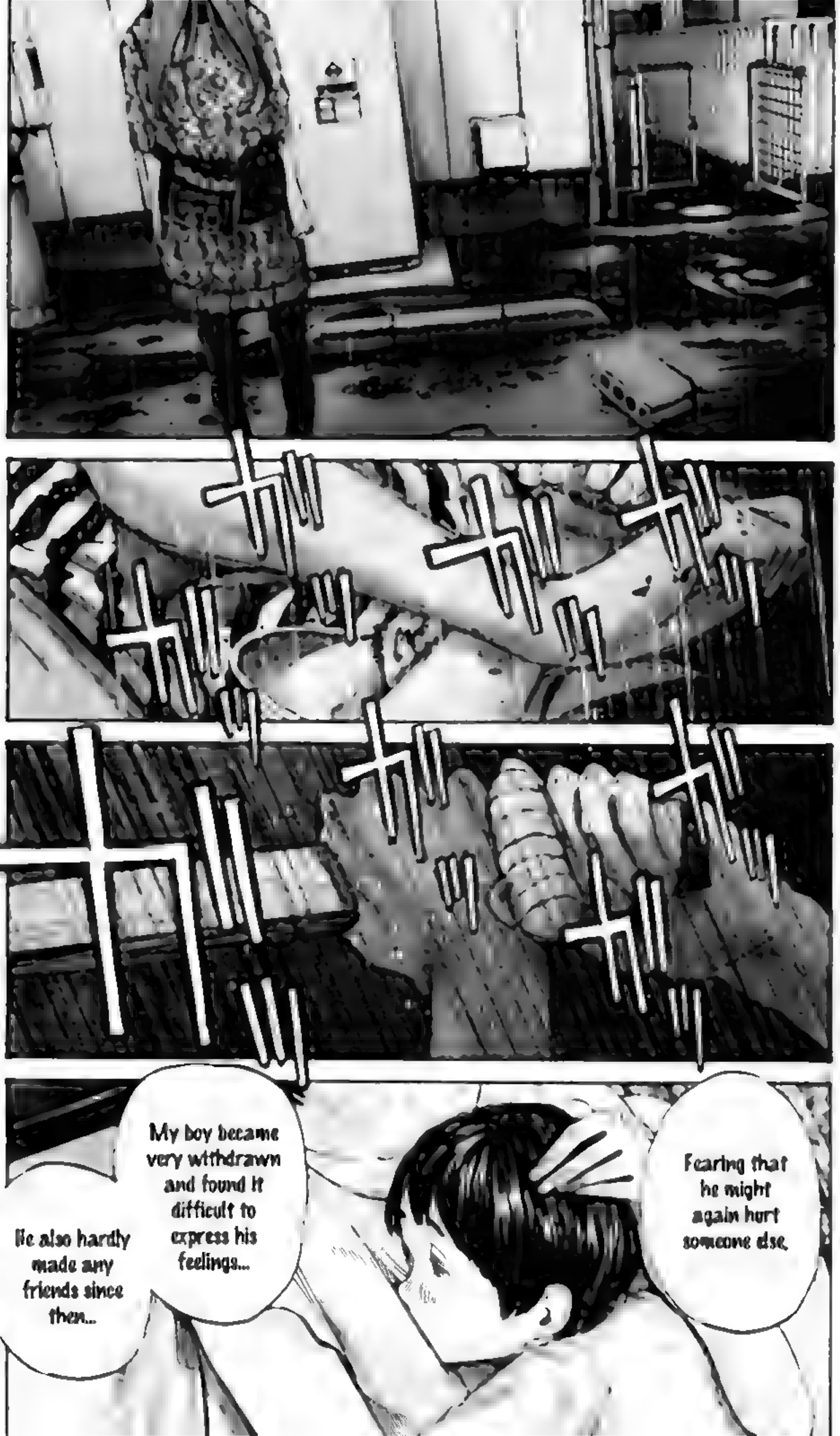
He blamed himself for the whole incident.

As a result, Punpun became quite depressed...

But he had to miss school for quite some time.

Luckily the worst-case scenario was avoided and the boy wasn't seriously hurt,

Punpun...


My boy became very withdrawn and found it difficult to express his feelings...
He also hardly made any friends since then...
Fearing that he might again hurt someone else,

He was such a kind-hearted child...
But you know,
There are some hardships you just can't solve with kindness alone in this world...
Such a considerate little boy...

...Was I mistaken?

...Yes, I'm sure I was.

Why else would I be regretting it even now...!?

A certain amount of irresponsibility is just necessary to make it in this world.

That a person needs to to have some amount of selfishness to live a happy life...

I really should've taught him.

But that child can be so stubborn, and once he decides on one thing, there's just no room to butt in and say otherwise...

Just what has been my life for...!?

Just what...

What's with you tonight, man, gettin' all weepy!

You rarely even talk about the past with us!

Hey, c'mon now!

PUNPUN!

YOU CAN'T!

PLEASE STOP!

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

Let's...

Let's just leave... Okay?

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

KYAA AAAA AAA!

HUFF

HUFF

Where are yo...
Punpun...?

Hm?

We can drop you off if you want. It's pretty far from here to the station, you know.

This guy here's sober so he can still drive.

Alright then, your choice.

Should I wake up Punyama so you can say bye?

No, it's fine. I can call a taxi.

No, it's fine...

I feel a little guilty for bringing up some painful memories for him...

Ahh, don't worry about him.

That idiot will probably forget everything come tomorrow morning.

Yeah, it's like he always says...

"I'm happiest right now."

Could you help me out with the backgrounds for my manga this weekend?

Kanie, you're my friend aren't you?

Could you do one teensy-weensy favour for me?

Mmm, alright...

So...?

How was Fukushima?

I think...

I've definitely gotta be the one to protect Punpun.

...Hah.

Is that so.

九郷歌謡ホール

I can hear the train...

Let's walk...

I want to leave this city before the last train leaves for the day...

Hm?

"...Aiko."

"...I was only trying to scare him off. He was the one who first tried to attack me with a cinder block."

I think...

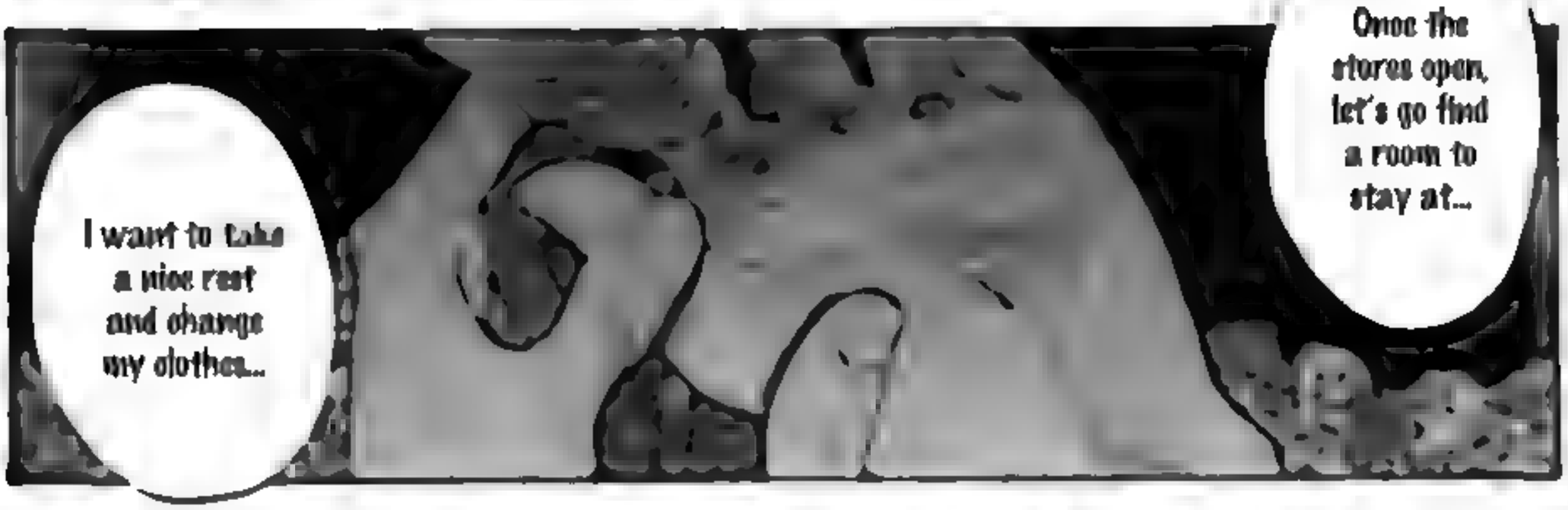
You've gotten a little strange, Punpun...

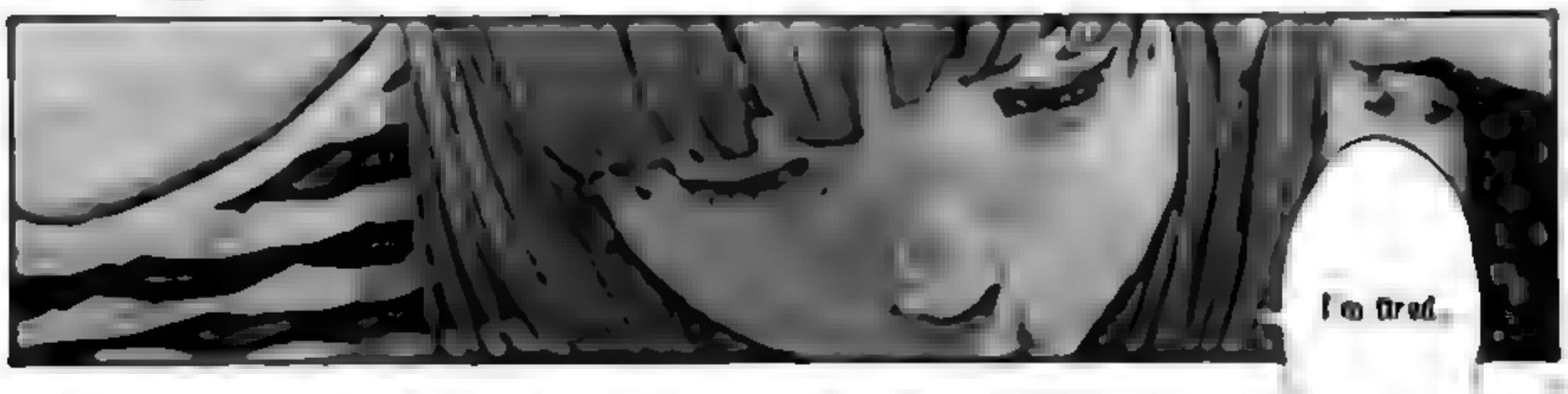
"If I hadn't tried to scare him off, I could've been killed... That's why I wasn't acting strangely back there."

"...No, it's everyone else that's actually strange."

That's...

The same thing my mother used to say...


I want to take a nice rest and change my clothes...
Once the stores open, let's go find a room to stay at...


I'm tired...

It took quite a while.
Getting here to Kagoshima...

baiet

That's why I'm going to do what I want in my teenage years, save up a whole bunch, and then use it up all in my 20s!

You know, I think you've gotta just die when the time comes.

Sorry, but I gotta go now.

See ya tomorrow!

Aiko,

Don't worry...

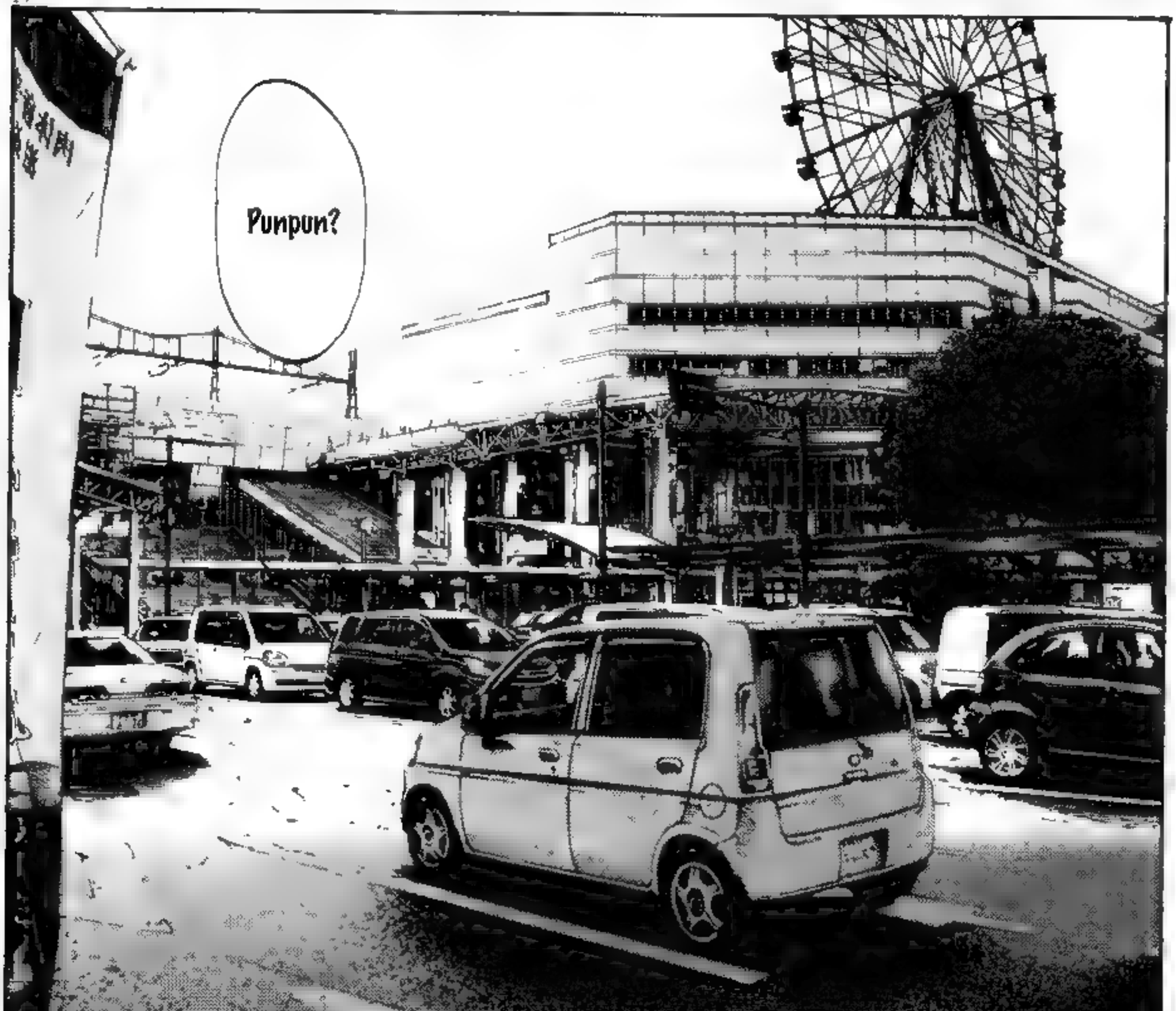
I'll do my best...

この席は不幸にNO

The person who sits here will be cursed with bad luck forever

As long as that dream comes true,

I wouldn't mind if I dropped dead right then and there.


Punpun?

鹿児島中央
KAGOSHIMA-CHŪŌ ST

Punpun.

16

...What were you up to?

What were you doing leaving your wallet and backpack behind...?

I told you to stop wandering off on your own...

"I should be the one lecturing you. You know that you need to get more rest."

Tanegashima?

(laughs)

...

ARC

Sure.

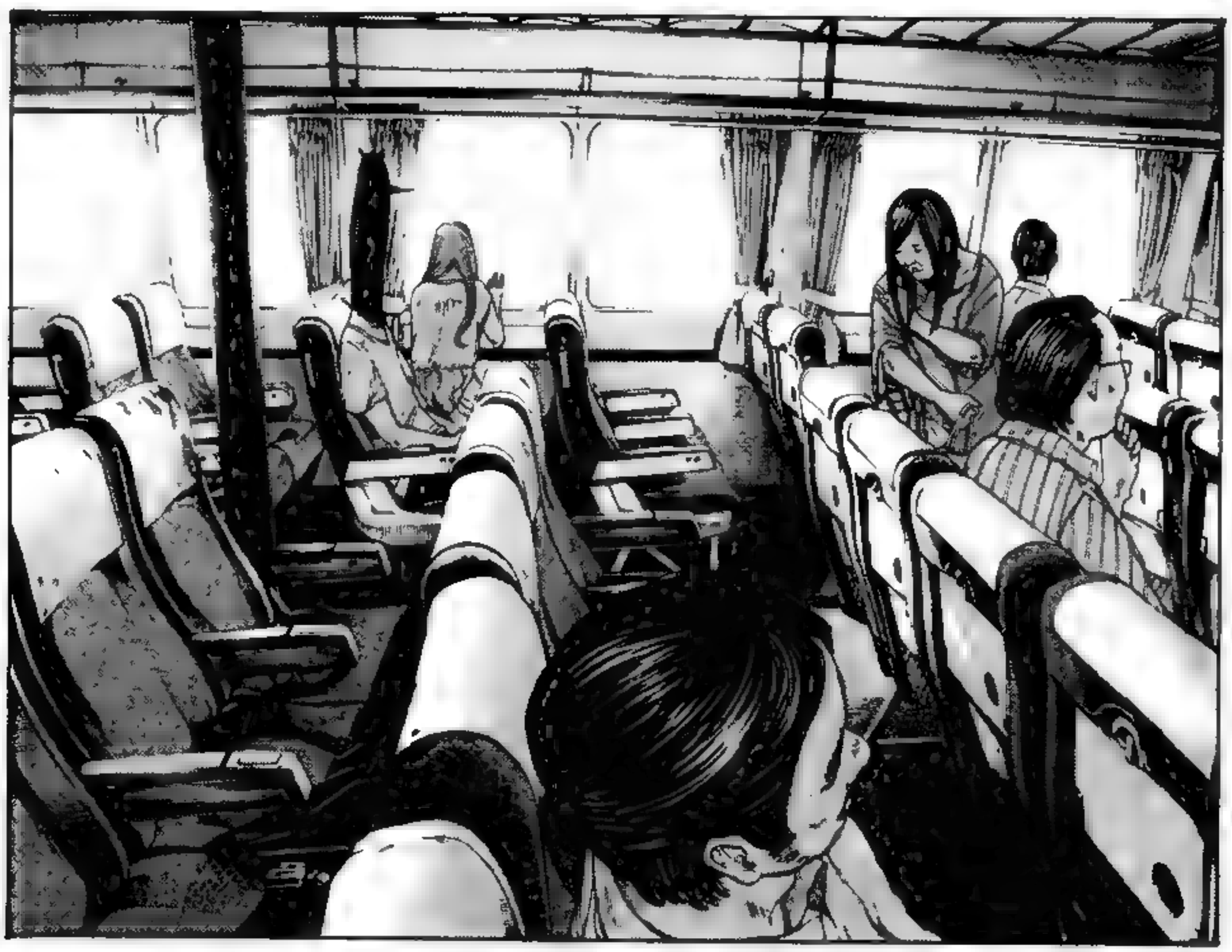
Let's go there.

AHAHAHA
HAHAHA
HAHAHA!

トッピー
Ibusuki Harbour Waiting Area

20

CHAPTER 130



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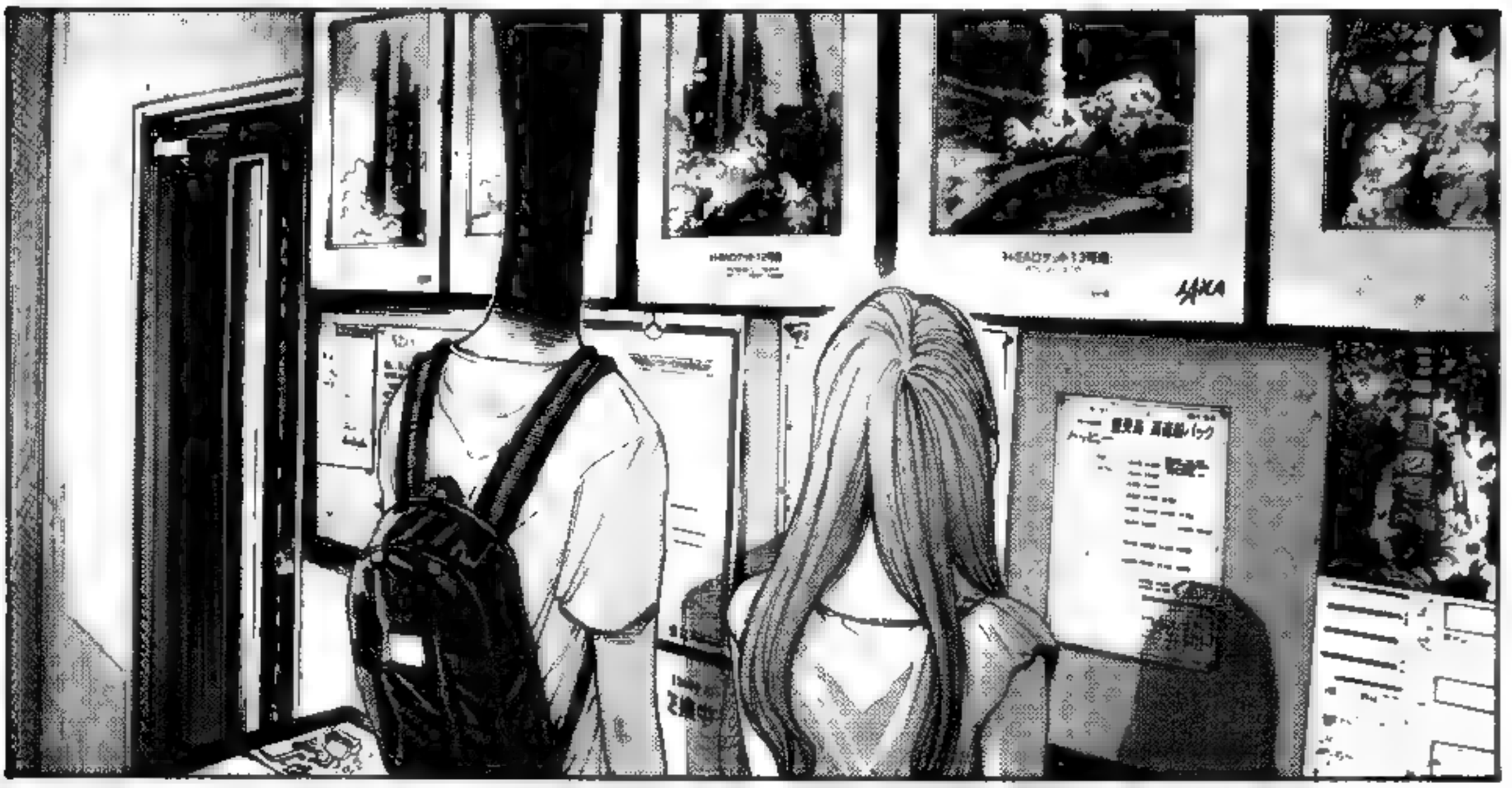
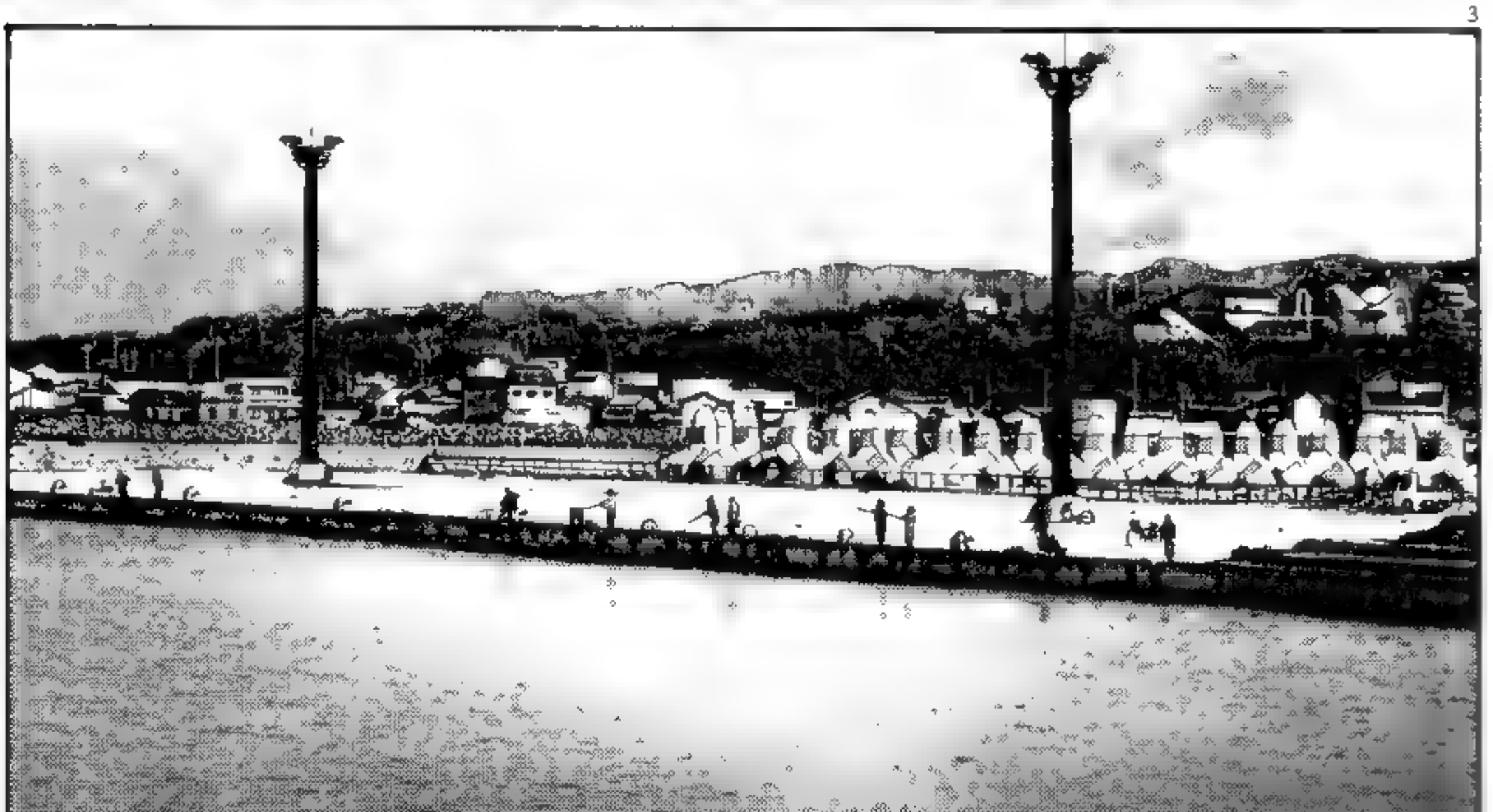
June 29, Noon.





かごしまロマン街道
鉄砲館 Gun Museum 1km
鉄浜海岸 Kanahama Beach 15km
13Km 湘田海水浴場 Urata Beach
種子島宇宙センター Tanegashima Space Center 51Km
門倉岬 Cape Kadokura 53km
Punpum, back in elementary school...
You wrote an essay about how your dream was to become a scientist who studies space, didn't you...
日本

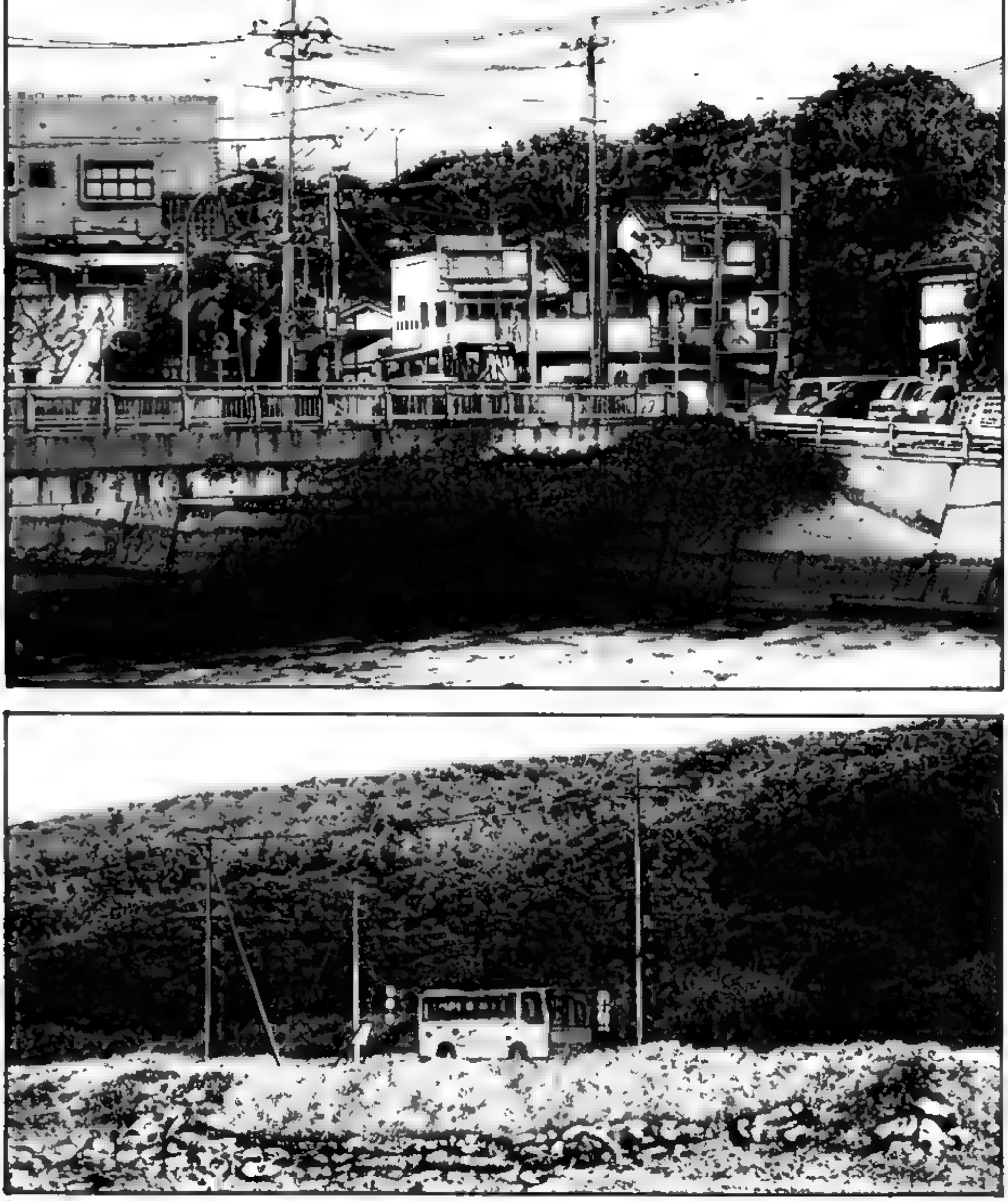
歓 ようこそ種子島へ 迎
楽しい想い出を！
ゆっくりして
That takes me back...

...I wonder,

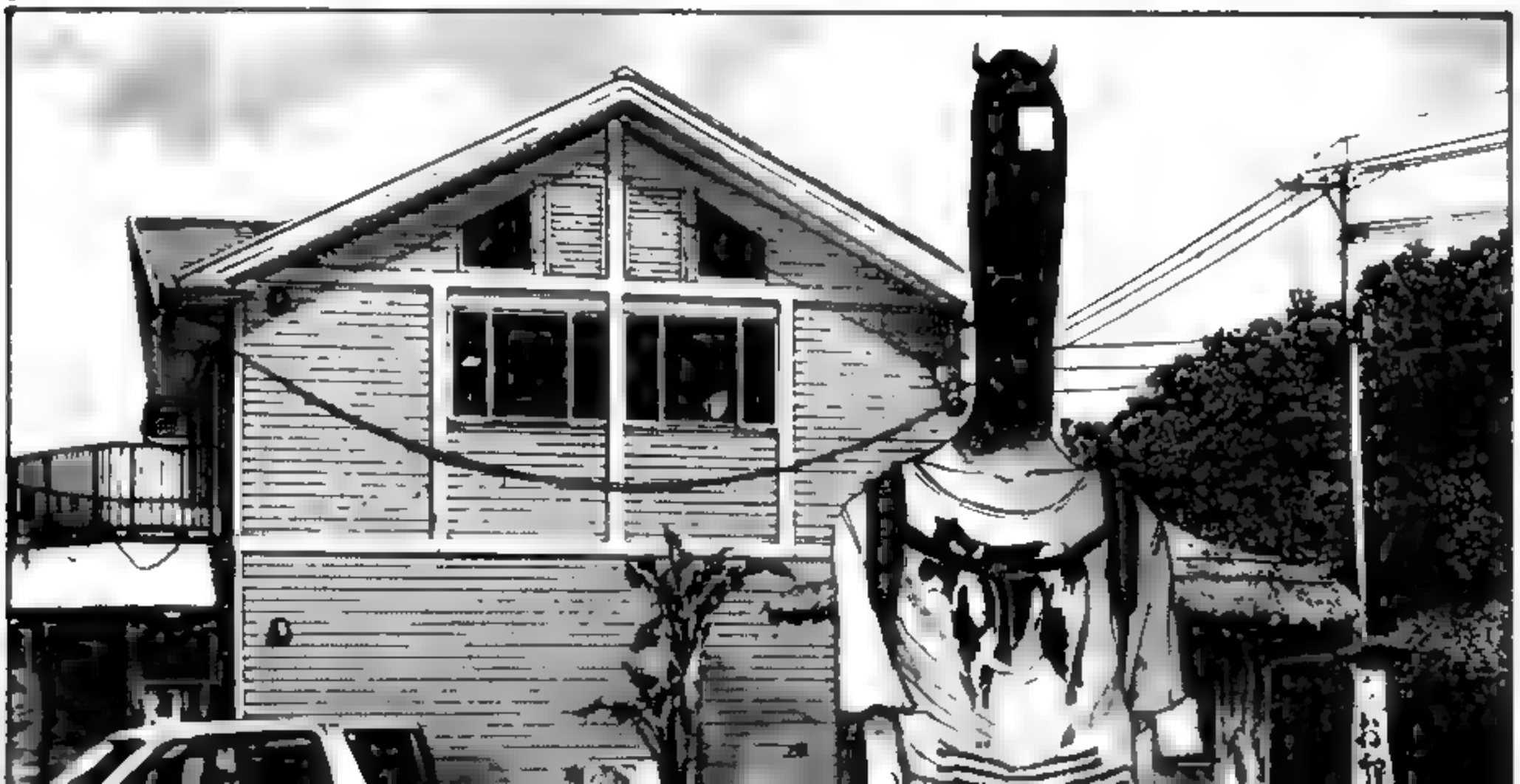
If the slightest accidental bump could have steered us down into such a different path in life...

"...What's the use in talking about pointless ifs and if nots right now?"

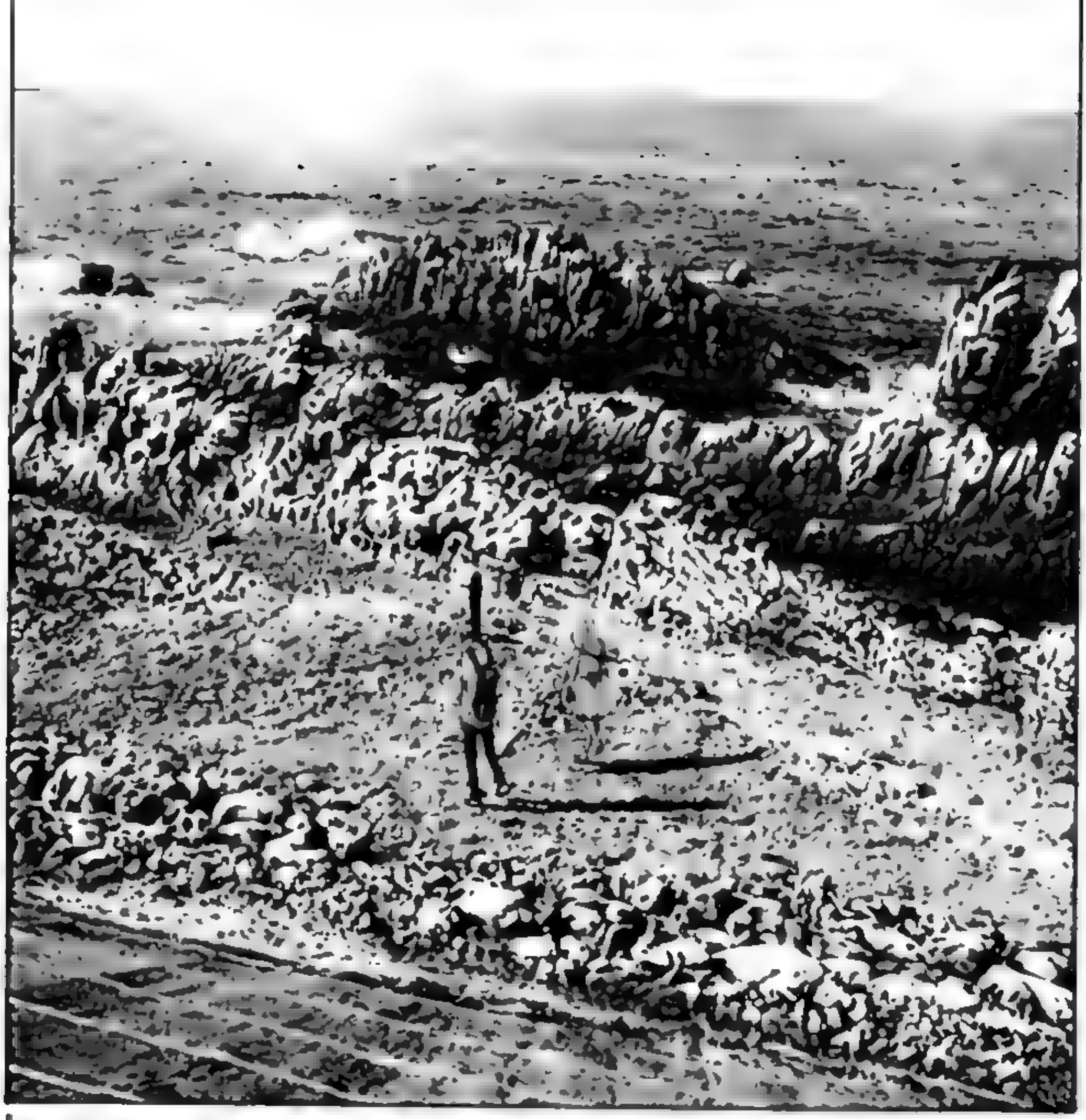
Sorry...

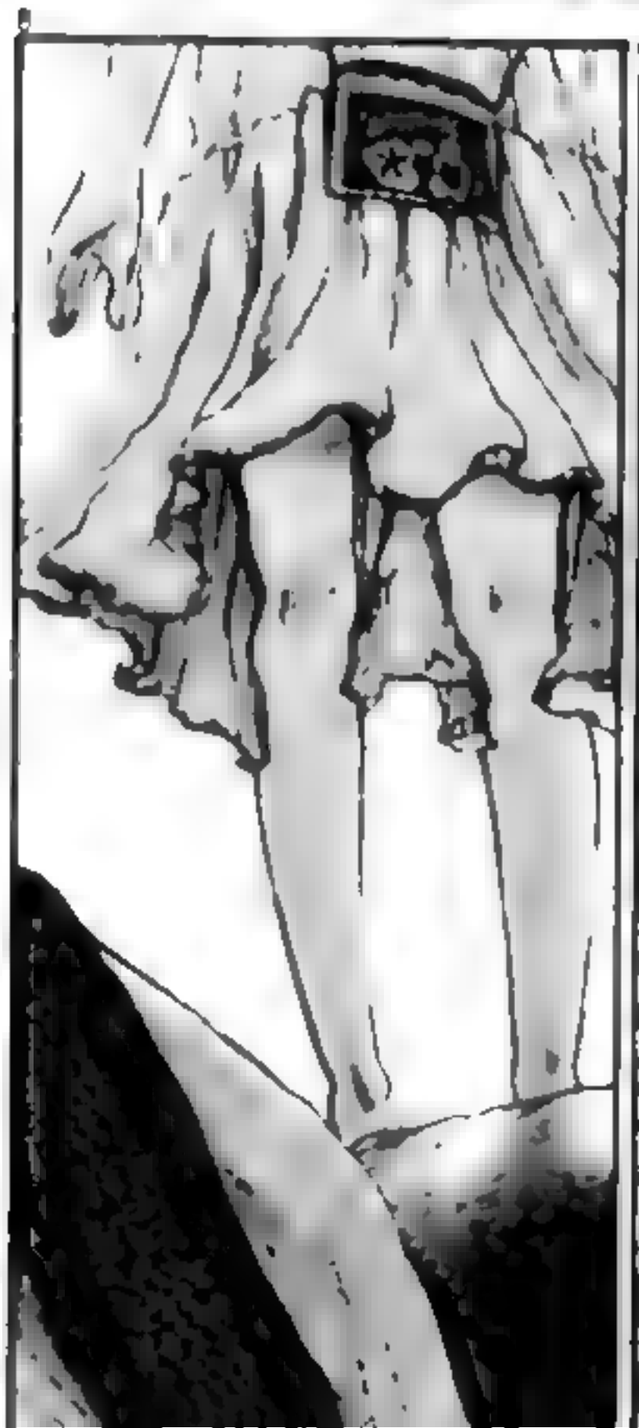


6



"You're as cute as a button, Aiko."





I think...

I love this scenery.

...I want to try and live on this island.

I know making a living will be harder than I'm making it sound,

But if we work together...

Living a carefree life,

In a place surrounded by nature...

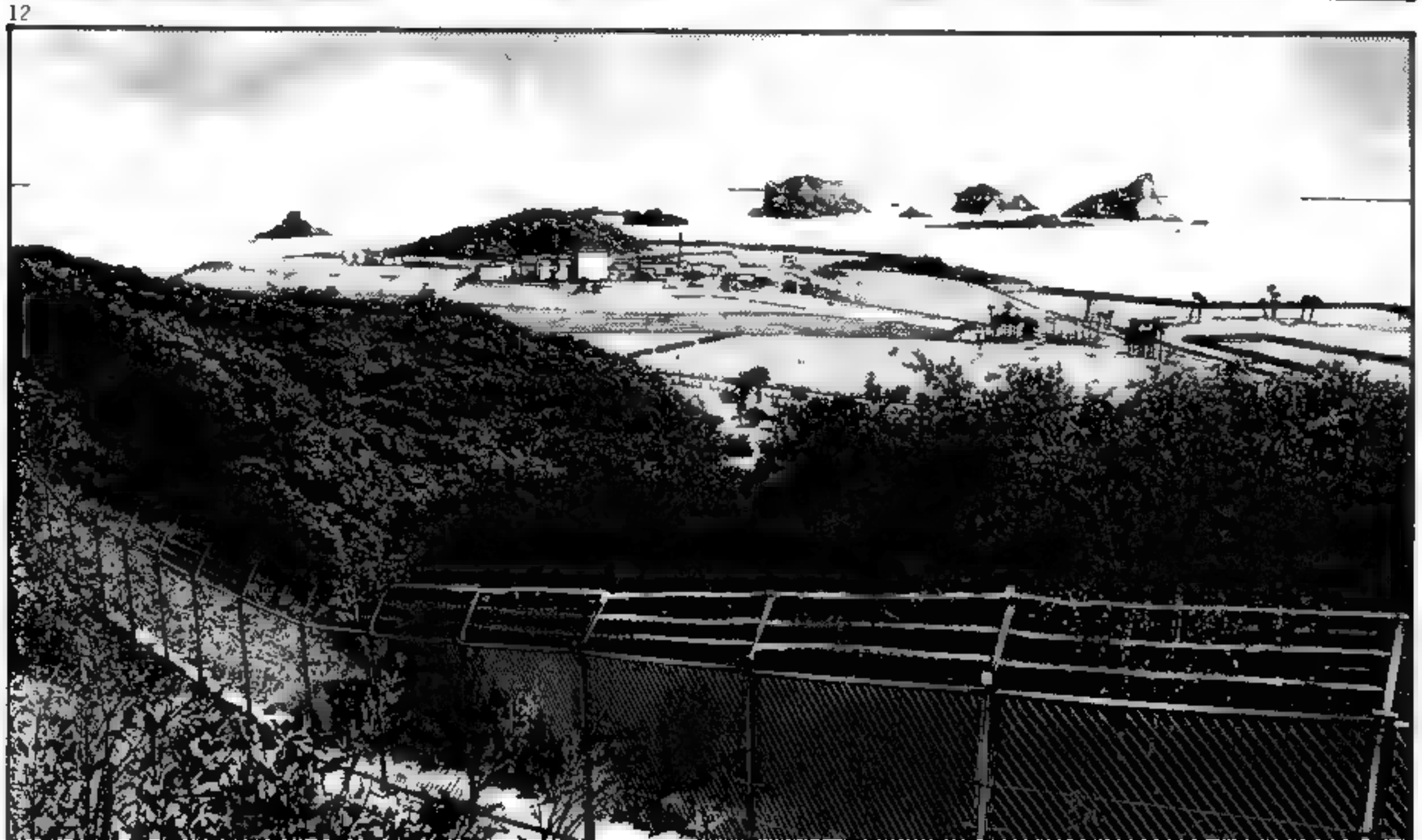
Even a small one-room place would be fine. And if there's a small garden,

Then we could try growing our own food and being self-sufficient as much as possible...

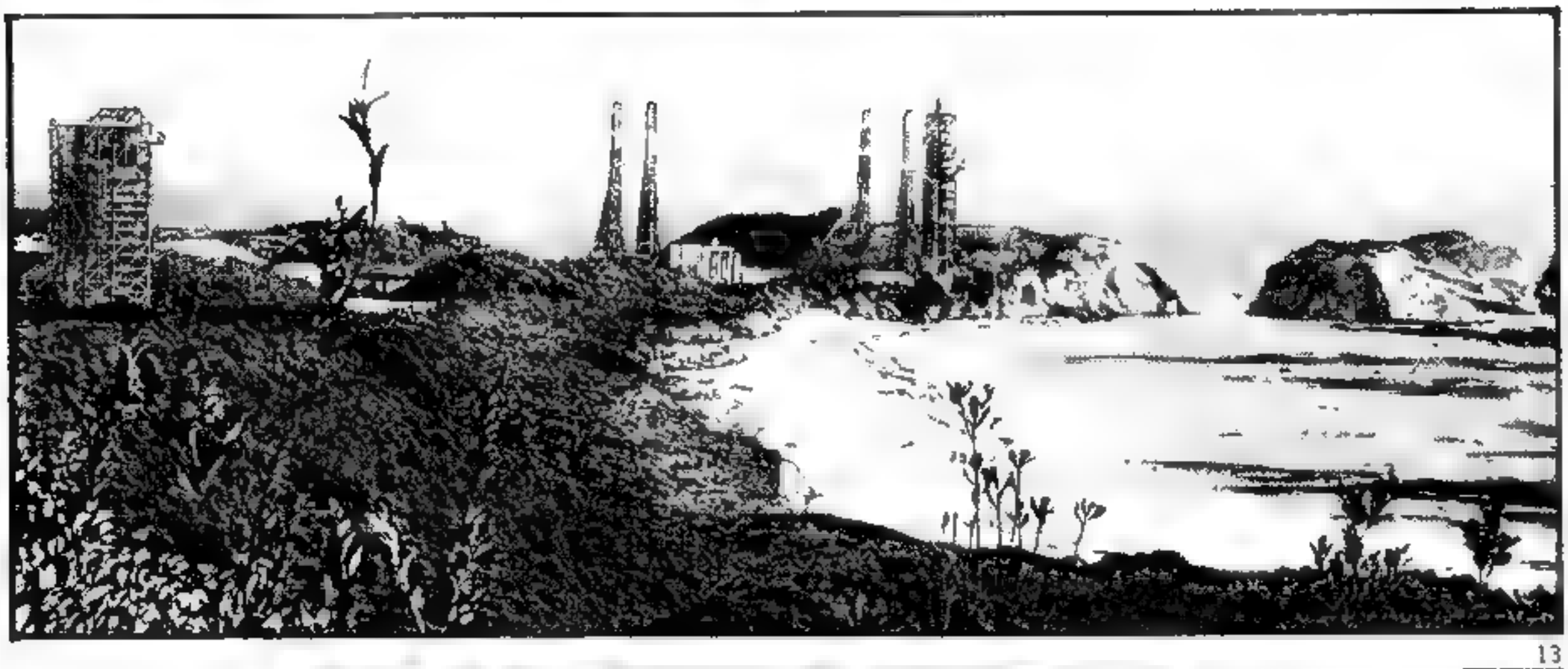
Rarely involving ourselves with others...

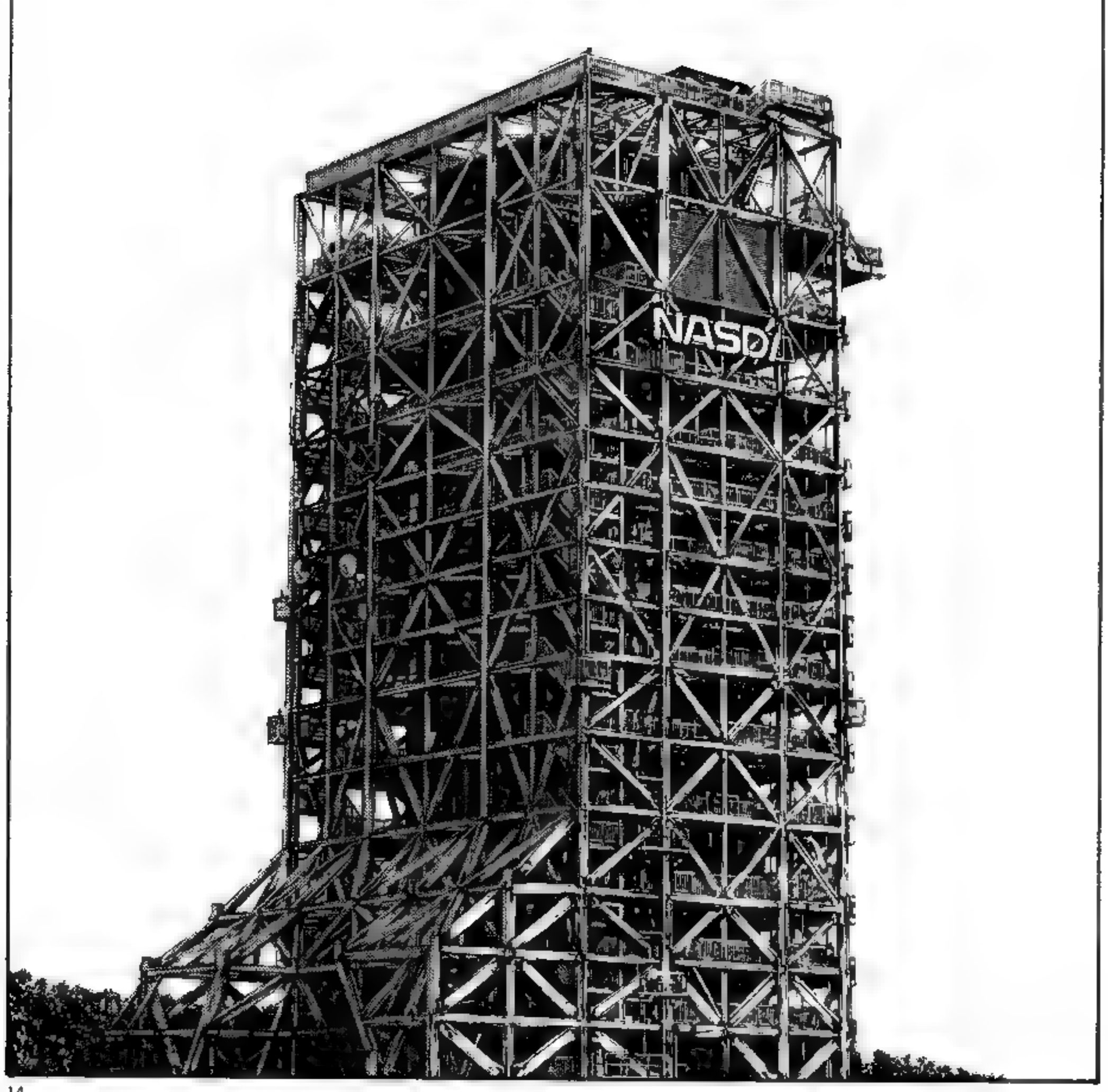
Just living together by the sea...

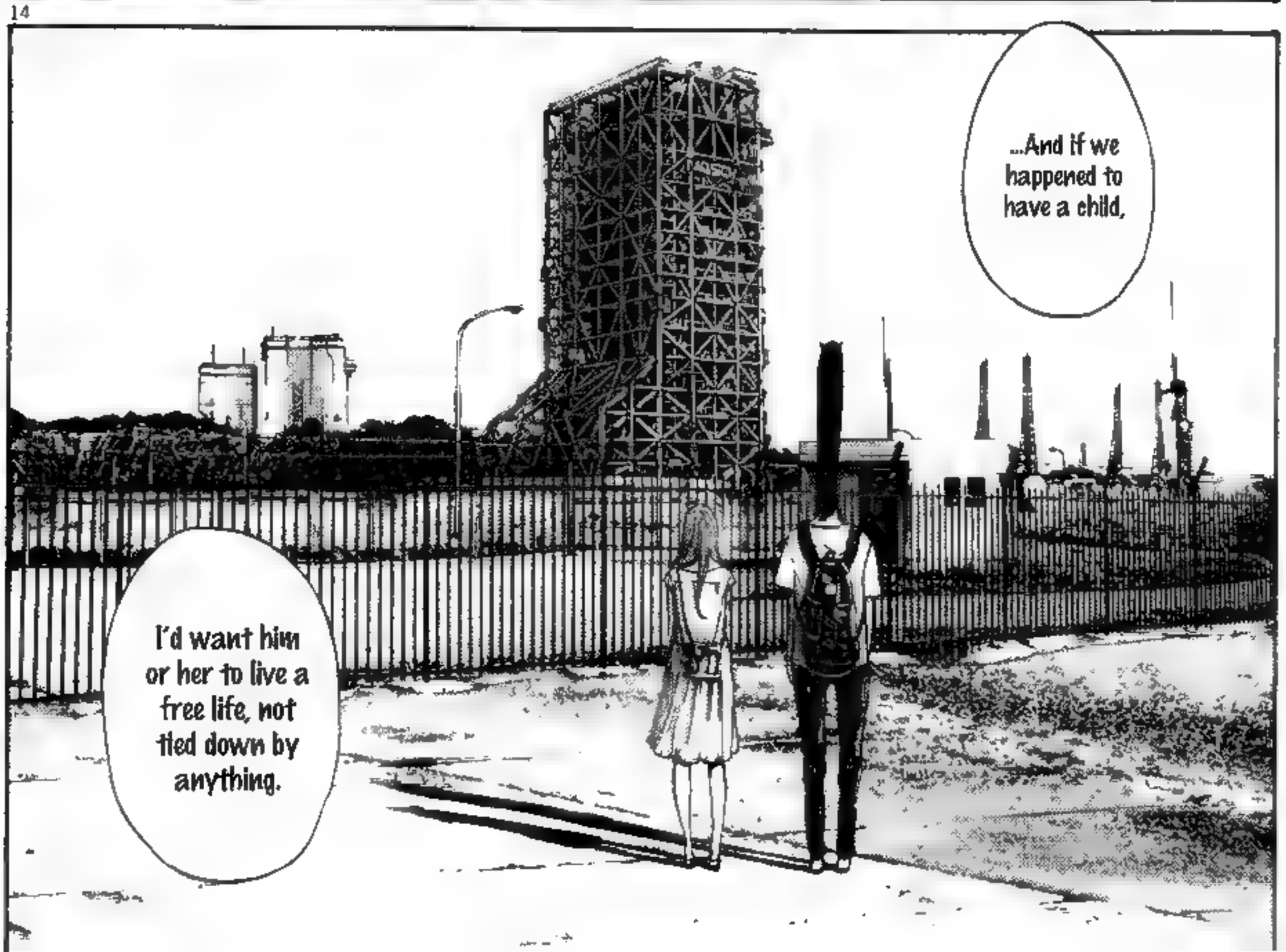
12



Look...




NASDA


...And if we happened to have a child,
I'd want him or her to live a free life, not tied down by anything.

It'd be too tragic if we repeated the same mistake...

It'd probably be best if we didn't have a kid.

...On second thought,

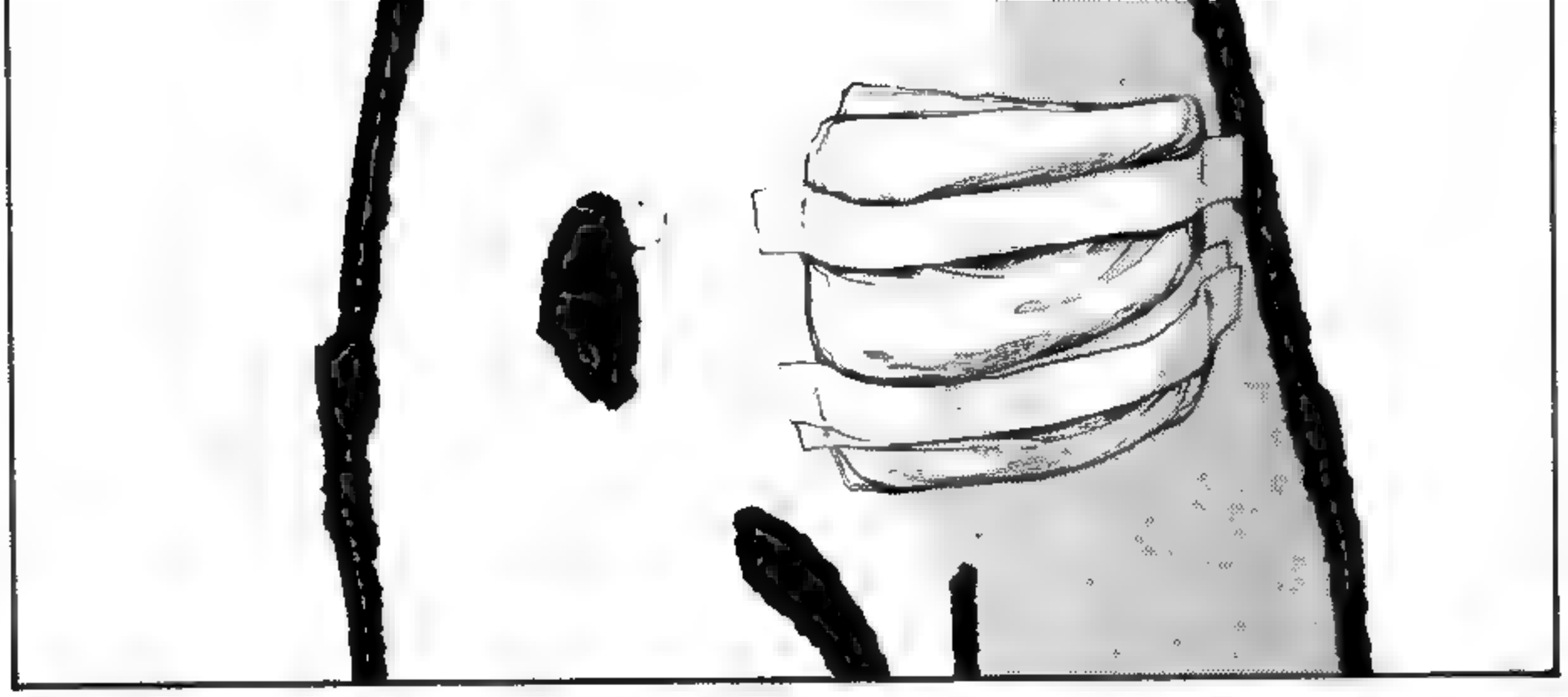
"...I told you it's pointless talking about ifs and if nots."

Sorry...

"...But,"

"...You know, I feel really happy right now. I'm so glad I was able to meet you in this life."

"I do think it'd be nice if there could come a time when we could just have fun talking about ifs and if nots, no matter how pointless it is..."



"Thank you."

GOODNIGHT PUNPUN

12

ASANO INIO

٥٦

_Punpun.

Am I...

Going to be killed here...?

"...Yes."

CHAPTER 132

I guess...

There's no other choice, is there?

"...I'm at my limit too, you know."

"If you're that set on not wanting to be left alone, this is the best option."

Purpur

Let's have sex.

Please.

Alt!

Alt!

Alt!

"Don't worry. I'll soon join you in death..."

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ALFF

ASHA-

AHH..

I...

I don't want to die...

"...Why do you keep saying such foolish things?"

"If you really don't want to die, then just get away from me this instant!!"

ACT 5

I don't... Want to die...

"...I don't need your concern. I'm satisfied with my fate."

I would tell all along you've been [illegible] to protect [illegible]

But you can! Pompom You can!...

But if I went off somewhere by myself...

You're going to... Kill yourself or run away from...?

AUGH

AUGH

AUGH

AUGH

"I threw away everything in my life to save the person I love. I couldn't have lived a life more meaningful than that!"

No...

That's just an excuse...

A dishonest belief...

It's not normal for a living person to suddenly end it all...

No matter what...

You've got to keep on living.

...Please believe me when I say,

That there'll come a time when you'll be glad that you're alive...

"...There's no bright future for a murderer."

You're...

Not a murderer, Pumpun...

...After you strangled my mother,

I saw my mother regain consciousness and try to stand up...

And went to answer the delivery man.

So I used the kitchen knife I was holding in my hand to...

"...You're lying."

I stabbed her over and over again...

Until she was no longer moving...

"...You're lying."

I'm sorry...

I'm sorry I didn't tell you until now...

I was just so scared that the words wouldn't come out...

I won't try to chase after you,

And I'll handle the rest alone so...

...But now that you know, you can return to a normal life...

"...You're lying. I'm the murderer..."

No...

It's the truth...

You haven't done anything bad...

You didn't...

Do anything...

I'm the one that became a murderer...

You just happened to be standing by me...

I'm sorry...

I'm so sorry...

But I'm glad,

That I was finally able to tell you...

14

...What're you going to do from hereon?

I'm not going to the police.

I'm staying on this island...

"...You always steal everything away from me."

...I guess so.

"It's a chant to make god appear before you. My uncle taught it to me when I was young."

What's that?

"Dear God, Dear God, Tinkle Hoy."

"...Aiko, let's get married."

"I wonder when it was... that I realized talking with god was merely talking to my own self."

Now how would I know that...

Punpun...

You're so strange.

It'd be nice if every-thing else,

Would just vanish into nothingness...

歓 ようこそ種子島へ 迎
ゆっくり宿って西之表
楽しい想い出を！
鹿児島県・西之表市・西之表市旅館業組合

Where wil yo
unpun...?

セイカアイスクリーム

CHAPTER 133

The world shall not meet its end...

HOWEVER!

Let me assure you,

For you see,

The great evil of the dark spot, which feeds off of people's delusions,

Is now surpassed by my power...

Supporting me were none other than the two special words of trust by my comrades...

And now, it's my turn to reciprocate.

I place my absolute trust in you Lovers.

You deserve a shining future.

And so, I shall go, leaving you my highest regards.

And the special phrase of hope,

"Good Vibrations."

I think we should get the party started soon...

Pegasus...

But to be free from distrust can also be a source of strength, as they say...

...Wada.

At your complete innocent simple-mindedness.

...I'm sometimes bewildered.

I have your guidance to thank for everything.

But even so,

Do you honestly think that I'm not aware of your true plans...?

You truly may be fit to be god.

Oh my, oh my.

SEIY
SANYO

Sold.
Good to finally see ya.

June 30. Midnight.

We were waiting here patiently without breaking your door

Am I on mute?

GAHH!

To be perfectly honest, I don't think there's anything more pitiful than a man making a big fuss about his almost non-existant pride...

It ain't like we've got a personal grudge against you or anything.

But this is a matter concerning your boss' rep, y'know?

I'd rather you didn't go digging up into other people's past.

It's already been over 10 years since he ran that store.

Your folks run a lunchbox shop, don't they?

Your dad was also a pretty pathetic man too.

...But maybe that was never possible, considering you're not so good with fire.

You should've just played the good son and succeeded your family business.

Haha.

You're actin' just like my dog right now...

Whaddya say to a nice tatoo on your forehead using the electric stove in your place?

Ah-

What, did ya have some sort of childhood trauma involving fire?

You changed the stove in your girlfriend's kitchen into an electric one, right?

Seki...

Tryin' to act tough at the wrong times'll only cost you...

That's a great idea!

Go for it!

Let's get this wrapped up while it's still dark.

Better clench your teeth now!

Well time to get started then.

Just kill me instead, please!

You know what,

"...Today was a special case. I usually don't want to show unfinished rough drafts to others. But then again... It's not like I've ever done a finished-copy of my manga..."

"Hey! When can I read the next chapter!? And can I bring some of my friends next time!?"

Ahh, it's no use calling him.

He puts on a tough front but he's actually pretty shy, you know.

Hey, kid!

Wanna play with us grown-ups?

"You're the lunchbox store owner's son, right? My mom also works at this factory so I'm sure we'll see each other again one day."

DRAWING BLOCK

"...Well, you and I might be both adults by the time I finish this manga though."

"Well I'm going to take over my dad's store when I grow up so I'll wait as long as it takes!"

"It's a promise!!!"

Why didn't I try to talk to her...?

She was there back when we all went to that factory...

...That's right.

Ever since that factory went bankrupt,

My life's gone straight down to the gutter...

Talk...?

I bet she didn't even know who I was...

...Sorry, Shimizu.

For some reason, I can hardly remember you from then...

Not a single thing going my way.

A shitty life not even worth killing...

...Yeah,

I guess it's all too late now...

I'm done with being tied down by the past...

11

I don't care if it's to another country or whatever.

I just...

Want to go somewhere far away...

Just somewhere not here...

Shiiimiiizuu!

YU

You going over to that weirdo's place this early in the morning?

This is the last time I'm warning you.

I don't know what kind of great deed your group is crusading for, but your little games ain't gonna change this world one bit.

Don't get yourself involved any further. I'm seriously concerned about you.

I have no idea what the button does but I have a feeling it'll start some sort of incident.

So how about we just forget all about this town and fly off to Tibet and become monks?

I'm starting a pretty cushy job from today where all I have to do is push a button.

I...

I've already decided to be of use to someone else...

You're always telling me that it's all for my own sake but...

...I see.

See ya then, Shimizu.

In the end, the only one you ever think about is yourself...

But-

バイク進入禁止

14

Bye-bye.

Wada

Mr. Wada?

I'm here on time like you wanted...

To Seki

STEREO

でんわ

なんこう

Umm...

← Washroom

The Helper comes every Tues/Thur/Fri at 1p m

Could you please turn on the tv for me...?

I don't know where Akinori's gone...

Oh.

It's right here...

Uhh...

Yeah, sure...

Please...

Akinori usually turns it on for me...

Umm...

You're Mr. Wada's mother, right...?

Akinori got perfect on his math test again yesterday.

You can go now.

Thank you, whoever you are.

Ah-

By a button-pushing job,

He meant to just turn on the tv for an old lady?

That's all I need to do every morning?

First-Class Wada Akinori

Wait, wait, wait...

There's just no way he would pay this much for a job like this.

No matter how much cash he's got to burn.

Ah...

Haha...

This is the worst...

CHAPTER 134

But one that's fully complete...

3.5-5.6/18-55 OSS

The world you see right now,

Is not one that has stagnated or closed,

A demise to the age of the individual and the start of the age of the collective.

REC 05:23

And how greedy you all are for desiring a new world on top of that...

To have me phrase it another way,

But I wish to reward you for that.

REC 05:38

This world right now,

Is reaching its climax!

REC 06:16

That you will not act selfishly nor unambiguously!

My dear Lovers, you have shown me,

And you've promised that you will never forget these feelings!

That you are willing to join hands and offer your lives for the sake of future generations!

REC 06:44

You've shown me that this world of ours,

Simply put,

Is bound by love!

REC 07:03

Because I believe you more than I can bear!

To be honest, even I may not have fully understood this fact yet,

But I am moved, nonetheless!

REC 07:51

I have no choice but to believe...

Believe...

Yes, I believe...

REC 08:22

...But if your convictions were all a lie,

I would simply kill all of you.

Lovers...

This will likely be my last message to you...

REC 08:56

May we magical warriors ascend to the astral plane and engrave harmony into the Akashik records.

July 7.

At the moment when the Milky Way passes by hope, it would be joyous if you could think of us.

Good Vibrations...

A beautiful world for you...

....A toast.

My fellow warriors of the 12 musical scales...

W...

Wait.

WE CAN'T DRINK THIS!

THIS IS... IT'S ALL WRONG!

Sacrificing ourselves for the greater good? This is absurd!

All I wanted was to get along with you all!

I'm...

I'm also scared...

Stay brave.

Pussy princess! Stop being so spoiled!

....Ok.

It is true that peer pressure has influenced all of us to some extent...
We should've had a fair discussion about this...

How can you say that now, coward!

It's important that we should all come to agreement about this.
Why don't we have take a breather?

Oh, how they would be the greatest sensation of this generation had they simply died without suspecting anything...

Well... It's not like this'll really change things in the long run, but...

They're awfully serious, aren't they?

Hmm.

Or perhaps I should say normal.

But a mob of crazies,

Has no business becoming all proper and rational all of a sudden.

Hello? Police?

What a plain, dull crime...

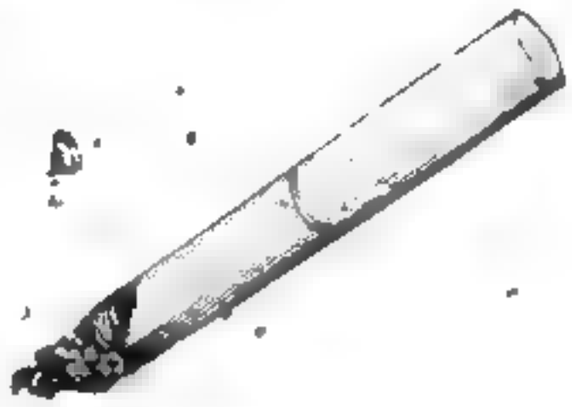
Quite unsightly to see cold feet at the last moment...

I'm calling about the recent string of break-ins...

...Yes, yes. By the two males, one bearded and one wearing glasses.

I think I know where they are.

Has been my very antithesis since the day we met...



Pegasus, also known as Hoshikawa Toshiki,

While I lived mocking it and doubting others at every step.

I could never clear away my skepticism of the uncertain...

He tried his utmost to believe this moronic world of ours,

The more you doubt, the more there is to doubt, and the more you seek the truth, the more it becomes obscured...

You see, I am a man possessed by the "absolute."

...But human hearts are anything but absolute.

...And so I've realized at last. Absolute truth is something one creates from within.

What is it you believe in?

Seki Masuo,

ポン

...Yes, how ridiculous it is that our lives can change so much from a chance meeting...

But it's all done now...

The reason I showed an interest in you is simple...

The two of us both have trou-blesome friends...

June 30, 11:30 a.m.

Even the smallest spark can become a great flame that can reveal people's true natures...

The better a festival is the flashier it is.

...Shimizu?

Excuse me, miss.

There aren't any openings in the food services, but there is one in the agriculture sector!

With help from the tourism committee, they're currently looking for enthusiastic young people.

I know a friend who works on a dairy farm and I'd be glad to introduce you to him.

And there's still plenty of rooms left for employee housing.

Sounds just fine if you and your friend wanted to find work, don't you think?

...Really?

Mmm...

YAAAAAYYY!

岩潮食堂

And I'm sorry to say our shop does not carry any pre-paid cell phones for crime prevention reasons...

But signing a contract with just an insurance card will not be possible...

My apologies sir,

...Oh,

If your friend has a driver's license, then there's no problem at all.

Now, although the phone will be contracted under your friend's name,

16

Excuse me while I go check up on the stock.

You can get started on filling out these forms for her until she comes.

Continuing on with our top stories for the day,

At early dawn yesterday in XXX prefecture,

Coincidentally discovered the corpse of a woman to his shock.

A man hiking in the mountains for wild herbs,

Punpun!

Along with signs of strangulation, there were several stab wounds on her abdominal region, leading police to treat it as a possible murder case.

According to the police, the discovered body is identified as the 41 year-old Tanaka Mitsuko, a resident of XXX city of the Tokyo Metropolitan Area.

And earlier today, the deceased's car was found abandoned in XXX city of Kagoshima prefecture.

In light of the still unknown whereabouts of Tanaka Aiko, the daughter of the deceased,

The police believe finding her will shed much light on the case and have begun their search for her.

Name	Tanaka Aiko
Address	
Desired Cell Phone model	
I.D. Type	

Goodnight Punpun ⑫

Asano Inio

Background Assistants:

Satou Satsuki

Kashiwaba Hiro

Atsumori Ran

Additional Help by:

Kumatsuto

Uehara Yuu

Translated by Hox

Scanned by Anonymous

This winter: the finale.

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